ACE OF DIAMOND BRIGADE

RW: MASO-CHAN

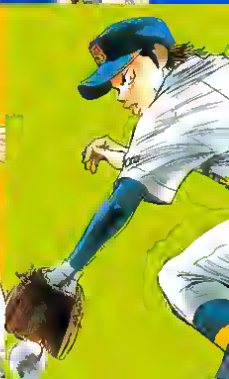
TL: HISA-HISA

CL: KALLAMEZ

PR: SAWA-CHAN

TS: KALLAMEZ

QC: KALAMEZ



DURING THE FALL TOURNAMENT OF MY FIRST YEAR, OUR GAME SCHEDULES WOULD OVERLAP

AND MY SECOND YEAR SENIORS COULDN'T GO TO THE FIELD TRIP.

(WE NORMALLY LOST AT GAMES, TOO...)

AS A SOLE EVENT FOR OUR WINTER BREAK, EVERY CLUB MEMBER WAS BROUGHT ALONG TO GO SKIING.

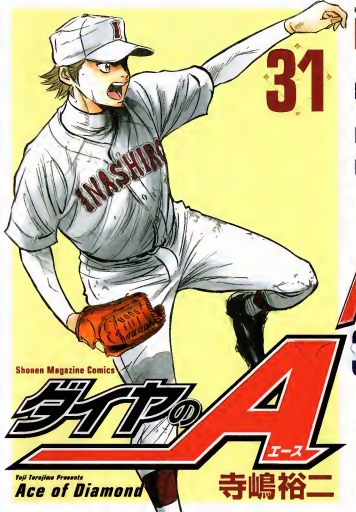
WE ALSO TOOK A BREAK FROM PRACTICE, AND THE COACH WAS KIND FOR SOME REASON.

WE FIRST YEARS WOULD JUST GO ALONG AND ENJOY IT... (LOL)

WELL, THE YEAR AFTER THAT, OUR GENERATION WAS7

(TO BE CONTINUED NEXT VOLUME)

——YUUJI TERAJIMA



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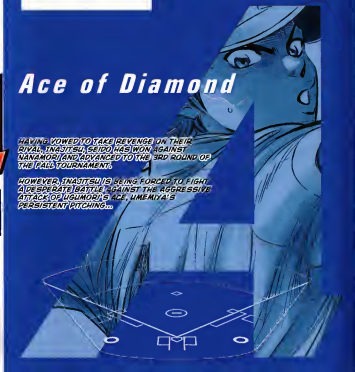
Ace of Diamond
4
TEAM INASHIRO HAD VOWED TO TAKE REVENGE ON THEIR RIVAL, SEIDO HIGH SCHOOL, WHO HAD WON AGAINST NANAMORI AND ADVANCED TO THE 3RD ROUND OF THE FALL TOURNAMENT.
HOWEVER, INASHIRO IS PLAYING FORCED TO FIGHT A DESPERATE BATTLE AGAINST THE AGGRESSIVE ATTACK OF TSUMORI'S ACE, UMEMIYA'S PERSISTENT PITCHING.

絶賛好評発売中

KC 寺嶋裕二作品

■GIANT STEP 全4巻

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以下続刊

COVER ILLUSTRATION ★ YUJI TERAJIMA
COVER DESIGN ★ KAJUMIDO FUKUSHIMA HAN

2012.5
KC MAGAZINE

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Chapter 267 - Open Your Eyes

Chapter 268 - His Mision...

Chapter 269 - Self-Destruction

Chapter 270 - Not Satisfied

Chapter 271 - Challenger

Chapter 272 - Cracks

Chapter 273 - Set-up

Chapter 274 - Discernment

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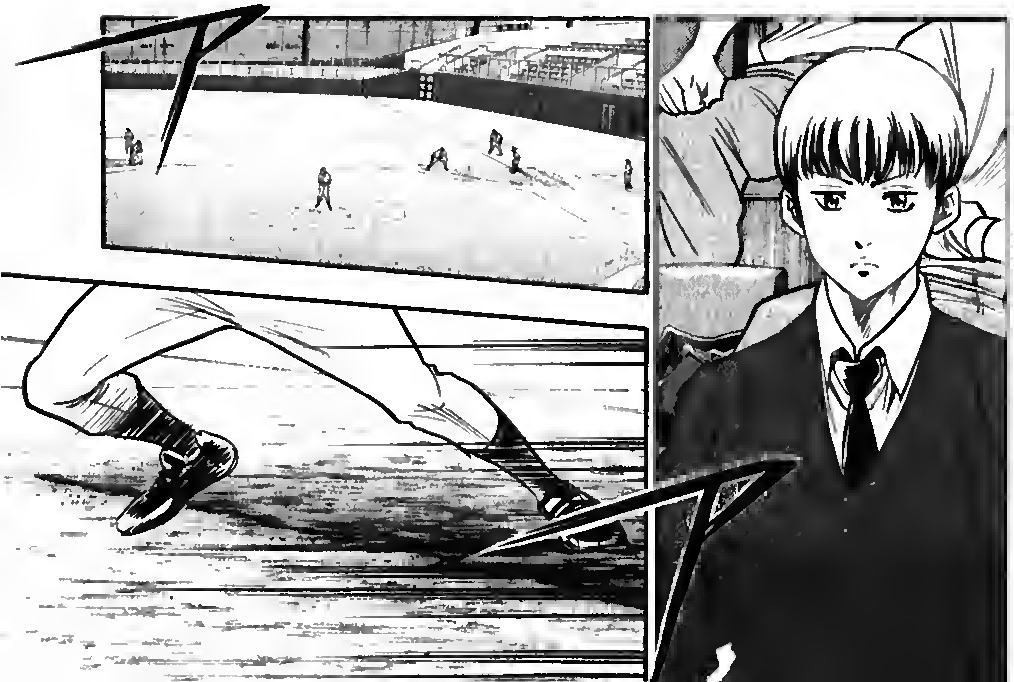
Chapter 266 / Surpassing One's Superiors



UMEMIYA RAN!
GORAAAAAAH!
ALRIGHT!! NICE RUN, UME-CHAN!
A SUCCESSFUL STEAL!

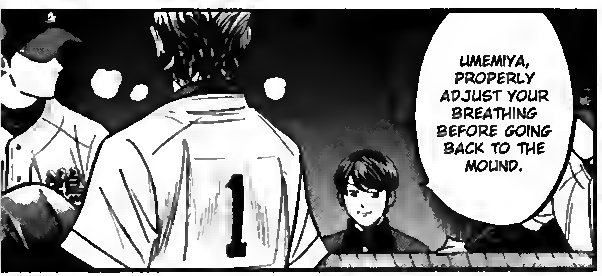
HEY!
ITSUKI!
DON'T LET THEM RUN SO EASILY!
EVEN THOUGH HE'S A PITCHER
HE RAN AGAIN...
EVEN IN THIS GAME, THEY'RE NOT AFRAID TO MAKE ANY MISTAKES
THIS TEAM RUNS EVERY TIME THEY GET ON BASE.
THEY STILL MAKE A LOT OF ERRORS THOUGH
2 OUTS, ITSUKI.
FOCUS ON THE BATTER.

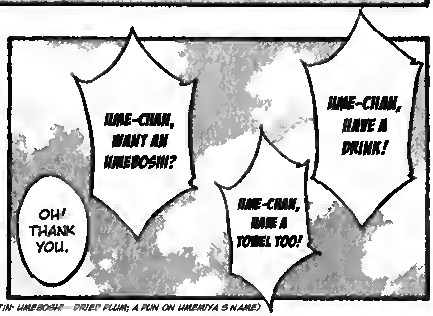
THE 5TH BATTER, INUBUSHI FOLDS HIS LONG ARMS WELL AND...
IT DROPPED IN FRONT OF THE RIGHT FIELDER!
THOUGH, IT WAS A WEAK HIT...

A DIRECT THROW TO HOME FROM RIGHT FIELD...
HE CHARGED AHEAD?!
ARE YOU SERIOUS?!

NO WAY...
THEY DIDN'T ALLOW...
OUT!!
THAT AGGRESSIVE BASERUNNING TO PASS THROUGH.
AH! SO CLOSE...
HE MUST HAVE GOOD REFLEXES
OR RATHER, THAT GUY'S FEETS ARE FAST
DIDN'T HE JUST BARELY MADE IT?
SERIOUSLY..?
EVEN THOUGH I THOUGHT I SLIPPED THROUGH THAT ONE PRETTY WELL...

JUST NOW, THE GLOVE DIDN'T TOUCH ME AT ALL.
NICE NO-TOUCH!
E-EVEN THOUGH HE'S A PITCHER, HE'S TOO RECKLESS!
NORMALLY, YOU'D STOP AT THIRD.
AGGRESSIVENESS AND RECKLESSNESS ARE DIFFERENT THINGS!!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHERE OUR DEFENCE
THIS IS PROBABLY THEIR WAY OF FIGHTING.





(TN: UMEBOSHI — PRIED PLUM; A PUN ON UMEMIYA'S NAME)

OR RATHER, I WAS THINKING "WHAT A WAY TO MAKE ME RUN IN THIS SCORCHING HEAT"!
IS THAT SO?
THIS SADISTIC MANAGER!
I'M NOT THAT WEAK!
don't look down on me!

BUT, WELL, WE CAN'T SURPASS THE FAVOURITES IF WE DO THINGS NORMALLY.
ニコッ
AGRESSIVE BASE-RUNNING, ASSAULT, RECKLESSNESS, HONORABLE DEFEAT
UNNATURAL AND SPLENDID
SURELY, IF WE DESTROY OUR POWERFUL OPPONENTS...
LET'S GET A POINT!
WE CAN TAKE IT EASY HERE, RIGHT?

OH!
OH!
OH!
YEAH!!
LET'S TURN THEM OVER AND DRAG THEM WITH OUR OWN PACE!

GET SOME GOOD REST ONCE IN A WHILE

WAIT... AH!
WHY ARE MY SHOELACES UNTIED!?

When did my spikes come off?
Huh!?

HAHAHA, SUCH A KLUTZ!

TOP OF THE 6TH INNING, 1 OUT, RUNNER ON SECOND
BACK TO THE TOP OF BATTING LINEUP, AND, UP AGAIN, BATTING 1ST, CARLOS
THIS IDIOT GOT THE SLOW CURVEBALL MEMORIZED.
I AM SO...
ORRRRRRR!

FED UP WITH THIS!
A HUGE ONE!
AND IT'S CAUGHT AS WELL!
TAM
IT'S GOING... TOWARDS LEFT FIELD...

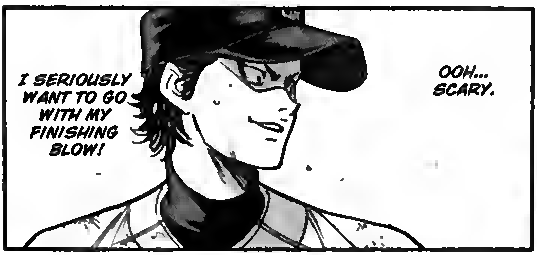
AH... HOW DISAPPOINTING
THEY DIDN'T SCORE A RUN THIS INNING, AS WELL.
BUT, INAJITSU IS STARTING TO GET CORNERED.
ISN'T IT A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL THEIR BATTING LINEUP IMPLODES?
YOU'RE SAYING THAT EVEN AFTER THEY'VE COME THIS FAR.

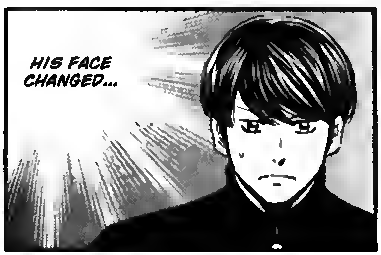
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
稲城 1 0 0 0 0 0
鵜久森 0 0 0 0 0 0
TOP OF THE 7TH INNING

4TH BATTER YAMAOKA GOT A TWO-BASE HIT
INASHIRO
AND BEYOND THE DEEP DEFENSE ON TOP OF THAT!
IT SAILED OVER!
THEY HAD NO PROBLEM HITTING OVER THE FIELDERS' HEADS!
GET THEM IN A FLASH!!
ALRIGHT! IT'S FINALLY HERE!!
BUT, IT FEELS LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING UN-NATURAL ABOUT INAJITSU'S OFFENSE.
IT'S TRUE THAT THEY'RE GET-TING MANY STRONG HITS...
THE TIME HAS COME!
THAT'S ALL!

BATTING 5TH, LEFT FIELDER, NARUMIYA MEI
I'M AWARE EVEN WITHOUT YOU DOING THAT SCARY FACE..
RIGHT NOW, IT'S RESULTS OVER STYLE.
WE'LL LEAVE THIS ONE TO YOU, NARUMIYA.
HE GOT A HIT IN HIS PREVIOUS 2 AT-BATS.

I'LL END THIS!!


I SERIOUSLY WANT TO GO WITH MY FINISHING BLOW!
OOH... SCARY.


HIS FACE CHANGED...

I'VE KNOWN THAT FROM THE VERY START.
THE OPPONENT IS THE ALMIGHTY INASHIRO INDUSTRIAL.
INASHIRO
BUT...

WITH THIS SLOW CURVEBALL,
WE'LL SURPASS OUR SUPERIORS!

ACE OF DIAMOND BRIGADE

RW: MASO-CHAN

TL: HISA-HISA

CL: KALLAMEZ

PR: SAWA-CHAN

TS: KALLAMEZ

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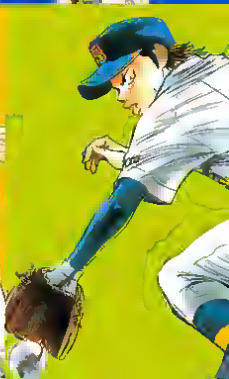
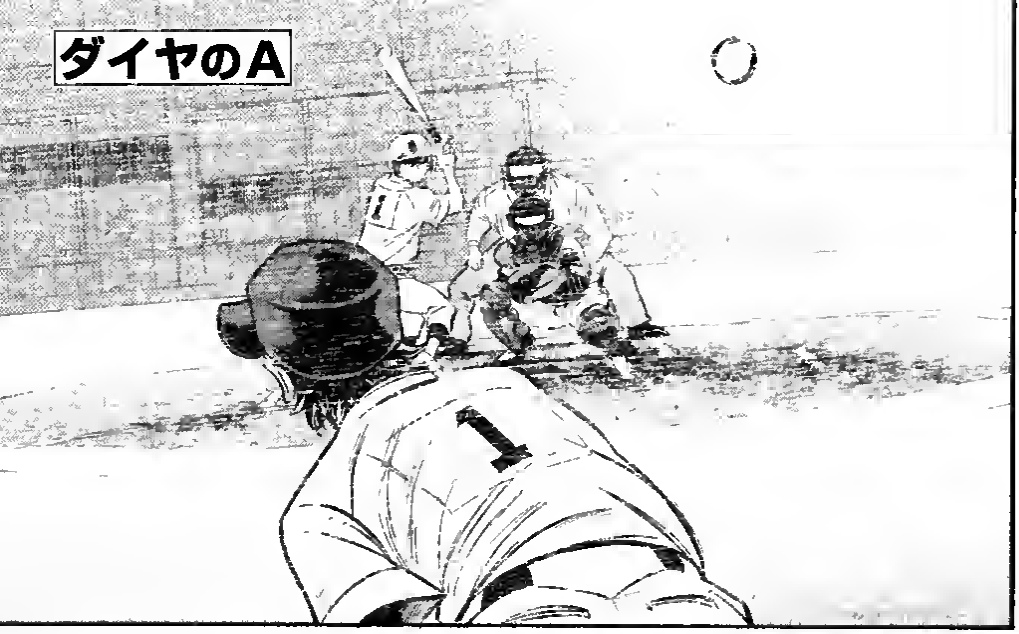
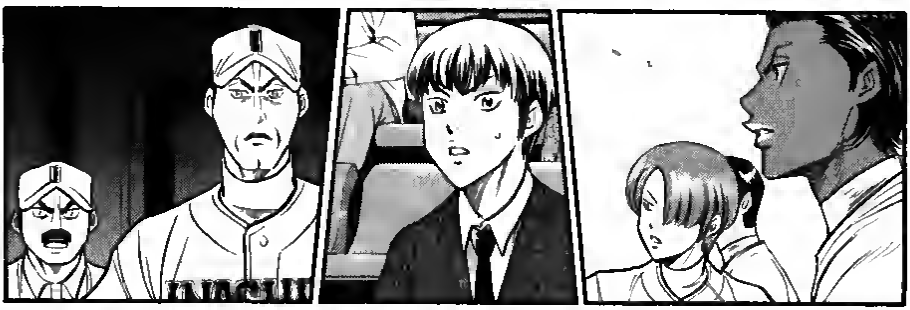
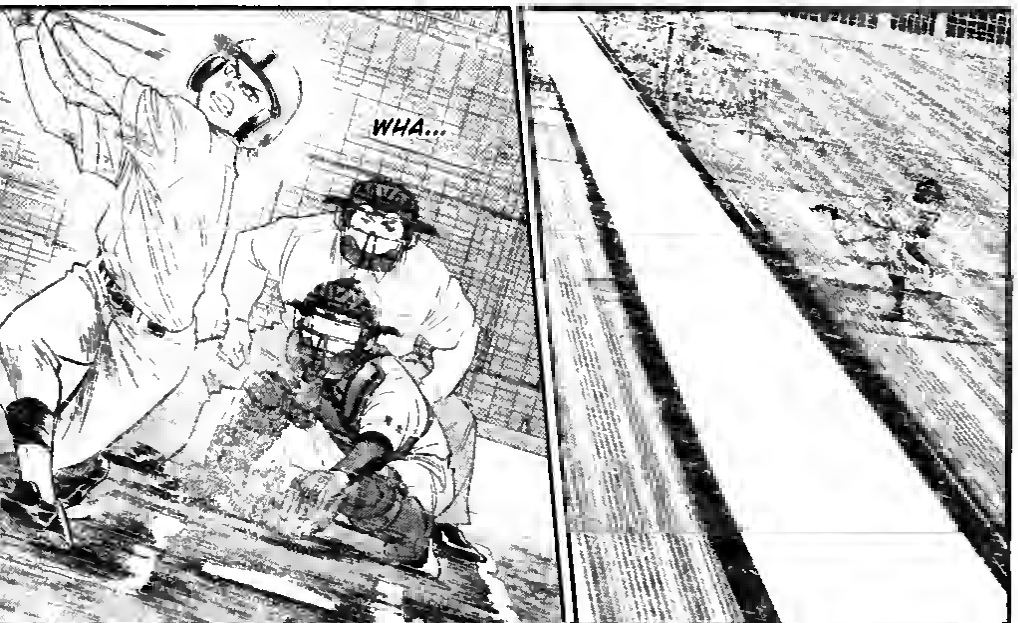
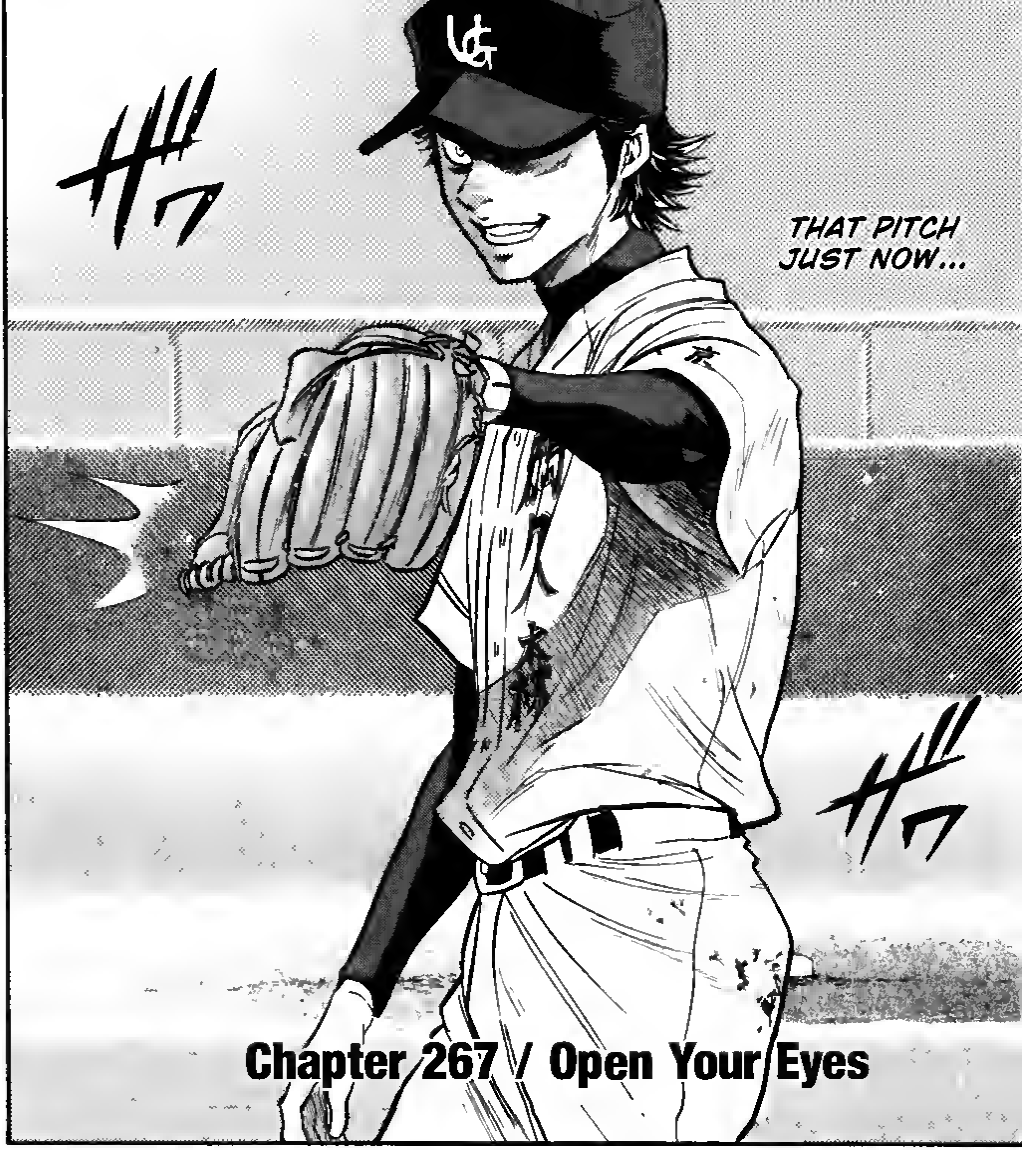







WHA...



Chapter 267 / Open Your Eyes

GC/N: CHECK LAST PAGE FOR NOTES

ALL THIS TIME, THEY WERE HIDING FROM US...
SUCH A TRUMP CARD?!
ORAH!!

HE HIT IT NEAR THE HANDLE!
AND THE RUNNER AT SECOND COULDN'T MOVE!
ALRIGHT!! 2 OUTS!!
BATTING 6 THIRD BAS MAN,YABE
NICE PITCH!
HIME-CHAN, ONE MORE!
NICE BALL, HIME-CHAN!

2 OUTS!
UME-CHAN, 2 OUTS!!
スッポーン
A SLOW CURVEBALL ON THE FIRST PITCH!!
CUT TO THE CHASE, ALREADY!!
SHOW ME THAT PITCH!!

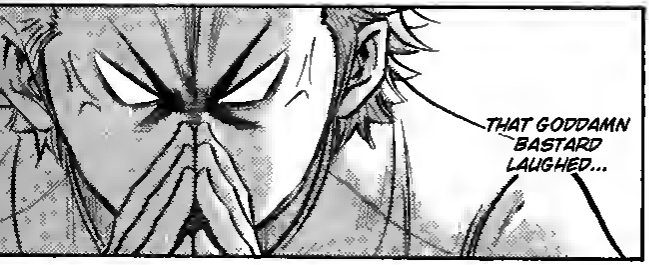
HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO THE HIMSELF, IT'S JUST ONE MORE VARIETY
I CAN SEE THAT THE BATTER IS WAITING FOR THE VERTICAL SLIDER.
MIDWAY THROUGH THE THROWING MOTION...
ALTHOUGH IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S GENTLY SLIPPING FROM HIS FINGERTIPS INTO A SLOW CURVEBALL...
HE IS TIGHTLY GRIPPING THE BALL, TURNING IT INTO A
POWER CURVE

キュン
IT'S SOMETHING YOU'RE BORN WITH
SUCH A SKILL ISN'T SOMETHING THAT CAN BE TAUGHT
HE IS PRETTY HUMBLE, THOUGH.

UGUIMORI'S ACE WHO HAS SHOWN US HIS PERSISTENT PITCHING, UMEMIYA!
ALRIGHT!
ORAAAH!!
IN THE TOP OF THE 7TH INNING, HE DIDN'T GIVE UP A HIT TO INAJITSU'S LINEUP IN THIS INNING AS WELL!

AS EXPECTED, INAJITSU WAS PROBABLY SHOCKED AS WELL
THAT BREAKING BALL THAT WE'VE ONLY SHOWN IN THIS ENDGAME...
NICE BALL, UME-CHAN!
SERIOUSLY AWESOME!
NICE PITCH, UMEMIYA!
YOU DIDN'T WALK ANYBODY EITHER!
DID YOU SEE NARUMIYA'S FACE?

HOW PATHETIC


THAT GODDAMN BASTARD LAUGHED...

Huh?

CO... COACH, WHAT ARE YOU...
BACK THEN AS WELL, WE HAD MANY CHANCES TO SCORE...

THE OPPONENT WAS ONE STEP AHEAD

"IF THEY ONLY HAVE THAT SLOW CURVEBALL, WE CAN CORNER THEM ANYTIME"?
"IF WE HAVE TO END THIS, IT WILL BE BY MY BAT"?
WHATEVER KIND OF EXCUSE YOU MAKE...
THE SCORE IS EVERYTHING.

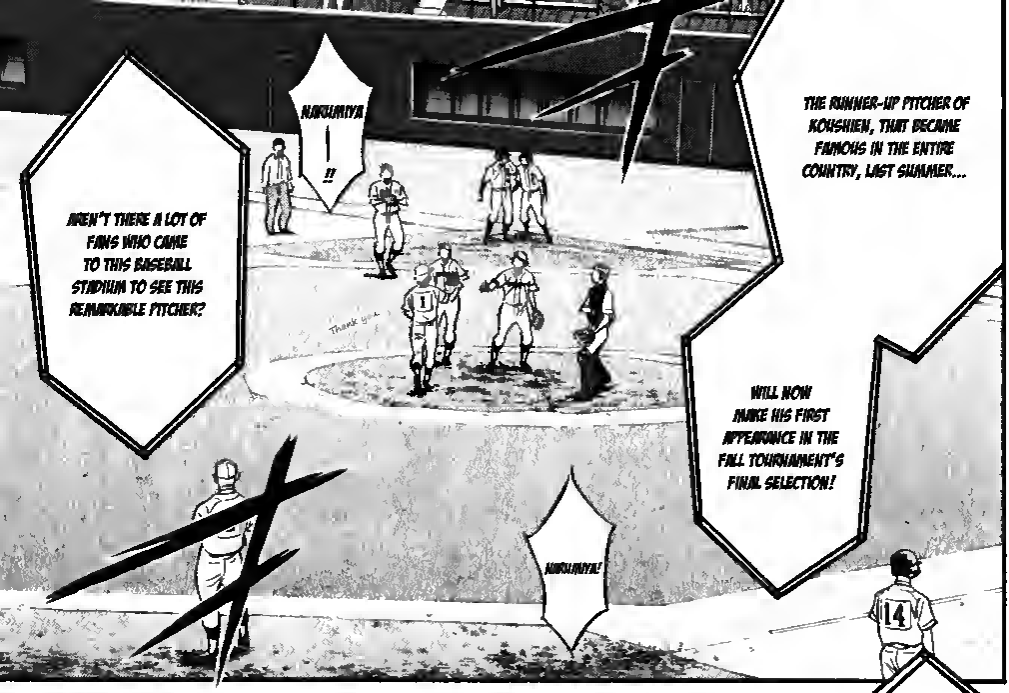
WHY DON'T YOU OPEN YOUR EYES?

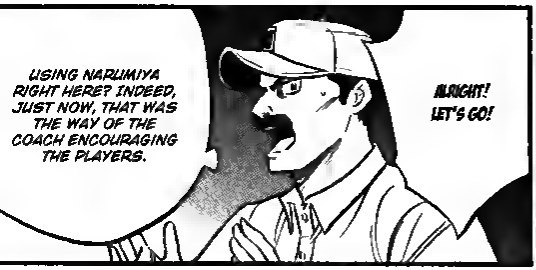
BOTTOM OF THE 7TH INNING
SHIT ...
EVEN AFTER SO MANY PICK-OFFS, HE STILL TAKES SUCH A LEAD?
NO OUTS, RUNNER ON FIRST

A HIT ON THE FIRST PITCH!
JUST NOW, FROM THE FIRST PITCH...
IF THEY WATCH OUT FOR STEALS AND DON'T THROW A BREAKING BALL, THE BATTERS AIM FOR THE EASILY-READ FASTBALL...
ALRIGHT!
NICE BATTING
THIS IS IT! NO OUTS, RUNNER AT FIRST AND SECOND!
UGUMORI'S BENCH "THEY AREN'T JUST AGGRESIVE THEY ACTUALLY THOUGHT THIS THROUGH!

INASHIRO
AND INAJITSU FINALLY MAKES THEIR MOVE!
UCHIMORI'S CLEANUP IS UP TO BAT!
BOTTOM OF THE 7TH INNING, WE ANNOUNCE A PLAYER SUBSTITUTION!
He's here...
9TH BATTER, HIRANO WILL BE RETURNING TO THE BENCH...
LEFT FIELDER COMES TO THE MOUND...

5TH BATTER.
PITCHER, NARUMIYA
NASHIRO
西東
SUGI! IT'LL BE EASY TO GET NOTICED AT YOUR POSITION!!
REPLACING LEFT FIELD, PLAYER NO.14, SUGI


THE RUNNER-UP PITCHER OF KOUSHIEN, THAT BECAME FAMOUS IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY, LAST SUMMER...
NARUMIYA!!
AREN'T THERE A LOT OF FANS WHO CAME TO THIS BASEBALL STADIUM TO SEE THIS REMARKABLE PITCHER?
WILL NOW MAKE HIS FIRST APPEARANCE IN THE FALL TOURNAMENT'S FINAL SELECTION!
NARUMIYA!
14

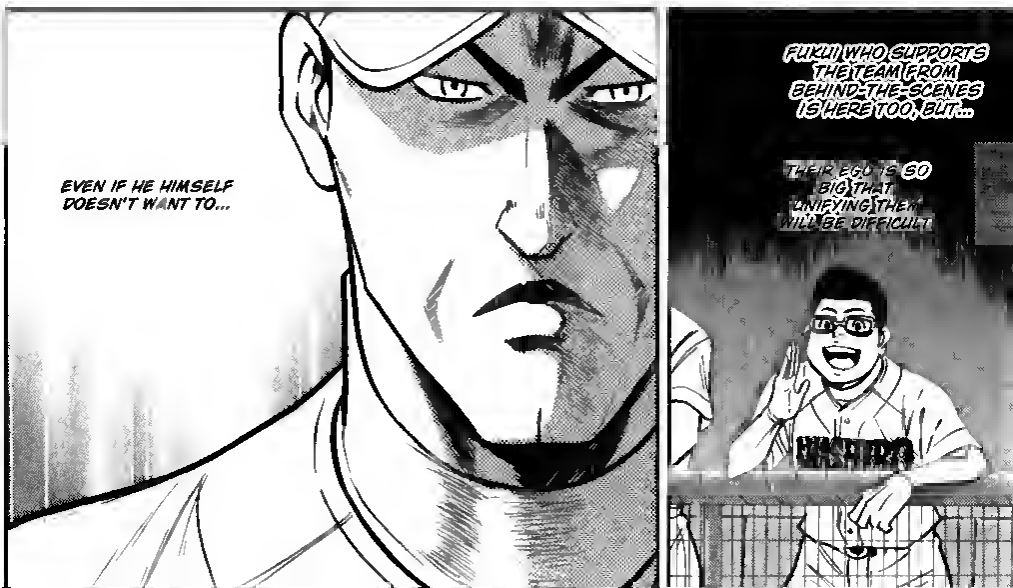

USING NARUMIYA RIGHT HERE? INDEED, JUST NOW, THAT WAS THE WAY OF THE COACH ENCOURAGING THE PLAYERS.
ALRIGHT! LET'S GO!

HIRANO, WHO GAVE UP NO RUNS AND PITCHED WELL UP UNTIL NOW, IS ALSO GETTING A ROUND OF APPLAUSE

A GRAVE MATTER HAS ALREADY RISEN UP.
IN THIS ONE-AND-A-HALF MONTH OF COACHING THIS NEW TEAM

IS THAT ONE OF A LEADER
THE HOLE LEFT BY HARA , OUR OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE CONNERSTONE...

THIS IS JUST A GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS.
AS IT IS RIGHT NOW.
NO MATTER HOW MANY TOP-SKILLED PLAYERS THEY GET TOGETHER...


EVEN IF HE HIMSELF DOESN'T WANT TO...
FUKUI WHO SUPPORTS THE TEAM FROM BEHIND-THE-SCENES IS HERE TOO, BUT...
THEIR EGO IS SO BIG THAT UNIFYING THEM WILL BE DIFFICULT

INDEED, THE ONLY THING THAT CAN PULL THIS TEAM TOGETHER IS...
INASHIRO
THIS TEAM DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THEY'RE THE TYPE TO BUNT, AND WILL AIM FOR THE FIRST PITCH, MEI-SAN...
FOR THE VERY FIRST PITCH...
THE RUNNER IS PRESSURING THEM AT BASE WITH A BIG LEAD!
THE ACE, NARUMIYA...

A SLIDER!

THE BATTER IS ALREADY CORNERED!
THE SECOND PITCH, A FASTBALL TO THE INSIDE!
AND FOR THE THIRD PITCH...

AREN'T YOU PISSED OFF?
STRIKEOUT!
A SWING AND A MISS!!
UNDER THE CAP - JAPAN NUMBER ONE
THE ACE, NARUMIYA, IS SUDDENLY PUMPED UP!
ASHIRO

A VERTICAL SLIDER (LITERALLY 縦スラ[tate-sura]) IT'S A NAME ONLY USED IN JAPAN OF A SUBTYPE OF THE SLIDER. BASICALLY, IT'S A SLIDER, I.E., THE GRIP OF THE BALL AND THE SNAP OF THE ARM AND WHRIST ARE THAT OF A SLIDER WITH ALSO THE SPEED OF A SLIDER, BUT WHOSE BREAK ORIENTATION IS VERTICAL, INSTEAD OF HORIZONTAL. DEPENDING ON THE PITCHER'S SKILL, IT'S ALSO POSSIBLE TO MAKE IT BREAK TO THE INSIDE, LIKE A FORKBALL, OR TO THE OUTSIDE, LIKE A REGULAR CURVE. GUYS AT THE MLB THAT PITCH OR PITCHED THIS VARIATION ARE JOHN SMOLTZ (R), BRAD LIDGE (R) AND GREG HOLLAND (KANSAS CITY ROYALS).

IN THE LAST PAGE, UNDER NARUMIYA'S CAP IT'S WRITTEN 天上天下唯我独尊 (TENJOU TENGE YUIGA DOKUNSON). IT'S A PHRASE ALLEGEDLY MADE BY ONE BUDHA. WHILE MANY TRANSLATIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS EXIST, THE MOST "NEUTRAL" I COULD FIND IS "FROM ABOVE THE HEAVENS TO BELOW THE HEAVENS, I ALONE AM WORTHY OF HONOR". WHAT I MEAN BY NEUTRAL IS THAT, DEPENDING ON THE TONE YOU WANT TO GIVE TO THE PERSON SAYING IT, I.E. MAKING THE PERSON SOUND LIKE A PRICK OR AS SOMEONE SELFLESS, YOU CAN TRANSLATE IN GREAT MANY WAYS. BASICALLY, THIS FAG ON THE BACKGROUND SAID HE'S BETTER THAN EVERYONE ELSE.

- KALLAMEZ

ACE OF DIAMOND BRIGADE

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TL: HISA-HISA

CL: KALLAMEZ

PR: SAWA-CHAN

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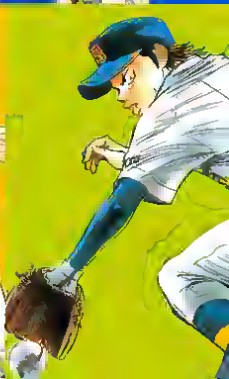


BOTTOM OF THE 7TH INNING, 1 OUT, RUNNERS AT FIRST AND SECOND!
INAJITSU'S ACE, NARUMIYA MEI
HE PITCHED MAGNIFICENTLY EVEN AFTER FACING A PINCH IN THE MOUND!
Chapter 268
His Mission...
INASHIRO

UP TO BAT IS UGUMORI'S ACE, 4TH BATTER,
SEIICHI UMEMIYA!
UME-CHAN, LET'S GO!
IF YOU HIT IT, ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN!
CAN THEY SNATCH A POINT FROM THE NATIONAL LEADING SOUTHPAW?
UGUMORI SURE HAS AN AMAZING CONFIDENCE BUT...
THEY SHOULD HAVE OPTED TO BUNT.
NARUMIYA!!

AGAINST AN OPPONENT LIKE INAJITSU,
CHANCES LIKE THIS CAN'T BE WASTED.
HE CHECKS THE RUNNER AND ...
THE FIRST PITCH...!!

DAAH
!!
A FASTBALL TO THE OUTSIDE!
STRIKE!
CATCHERS REALLY DON'T LIKE WHEN YOU DO FULL SWINGS LIKE THAT.
....
SO THIS IS A FIRST-CLASS PITCHER?
THAT WAS AWESOME! I COULDN'T TOUCH IT AT ALL!
CAN HE EVEN HIT IT WITH THAT KIND OF WIDE SWING?
HE WENT AFTER IT WITHOUT HESITATING...
IS HE AIMING FOR THE FASTBALL?

HA!
RUNNER AT SECOND TAKES OFF!!
O..OVER THERE..

*GOIN: USUALLY, WHEN THE GUY AT SECOND RUNS, THE RUNNER AT FIRST TRIES FOR SECOND, SO AS TO ADVANCE AT LEAST ONE RUNNER. IN THE CASE THE CATCHER MANAGES TO THROW A PUTOUT

GOOD!
NOW, WE HAVE RUNNERS AT FIRST AND THIRD.
WE'LL BE ABLE TO STIR THEM UP IN THIS SITUATION, SO I'M SURE INAJITSU WILL STRENGTHEN THEIR DEFENSE...

IT'S FINE EVEN IF YOU DON'T COME HERE!
IT'S JUST A DEFENSE POSITION CHECK!
AND WITHOUT A MOMENT'S DELAY, THEY'RE SENDING A MESSENGER.
INAJITSU'S BENCH HAS CALLED FOR A TIMEOUT HERE.
WHEN THAT HAPPENS, GET THE RUNNER OUT AT HOME BASE COMPLETELY.
INFIELDERS WILL SHIFT FORWARD.
EVEN IF THEY HIT A GROUNDER, BE PREPARED.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE OTHER TEAM IS PLANNING...
BUT, IF THEY SHOW SIGNS OF A SQUEEZE PLAY, PLEASE THROW WIDE.
AND I WILL DEFINITELY CATCH IT.
Oh yeah, this s his duty as a captain after all!!!
MEI-SAN!

WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER IF WE JUST SHUTDOWN THE NEXT TWO BATTERS?
THAT'S WHY I SAID, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE RUNNERS TOO MUCH
GUH!!
WHETHER THEY GO FOR A SQUEEZE OR A HIT...
I DON'T INTEND TO LET THEM TOUCH THE BALL AT ALL.
HEH
ALRIGHT! BREAK IT UP, BREAK IT UP!
FUKU-CHAN, TELL THE COACH TO CALM DOWN AND JUST WATCH!
MEI...

122M
1 OUT, RUNNERS ON FIRST AND SECOND
IF THE THIRD BASE RUNNER MAKES IT HOME, IT WILL BE A TIE!
IF THE FIRST BASE RUNNER MAKES IT HOME, THEY WILL GAIN THE UPPER HAND!

INFIELDERS ARE SHIFTING FORWARD!
INAJITSU IS APPLYING PRESSURE WITH THE DEFENSE.
IF IT'S THIS TEAM, THEY'LL USE THE RUNNER AT FIRST AS A DECOY AND GO FOR A DELAYED STEAL*
ARE THE INFIELDERS AIMING FOR A DOUBLE-PLAY
DID THEY LEAVE A RUNNER AT FIRST ON PURPOSE?
AUTHOR'S NOTE: WHEN A RUNNER AT FIRST GOES FOR A STEAL AND THE CATCHER THROWS TO SECOND. AT THAT VERY MOMENT THE RUNNER AT FIRST WILL GO FOR HOME. A RARE STEALING METHOD TESTED IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF FASTBALLS, FAKE THROWS BY THE DEFENSE, AND SUCH
NARUMIYA'S PUTTING HIS ALL INTO THIS.
THE THIRD PITCH ON A 1-1 COUNT...

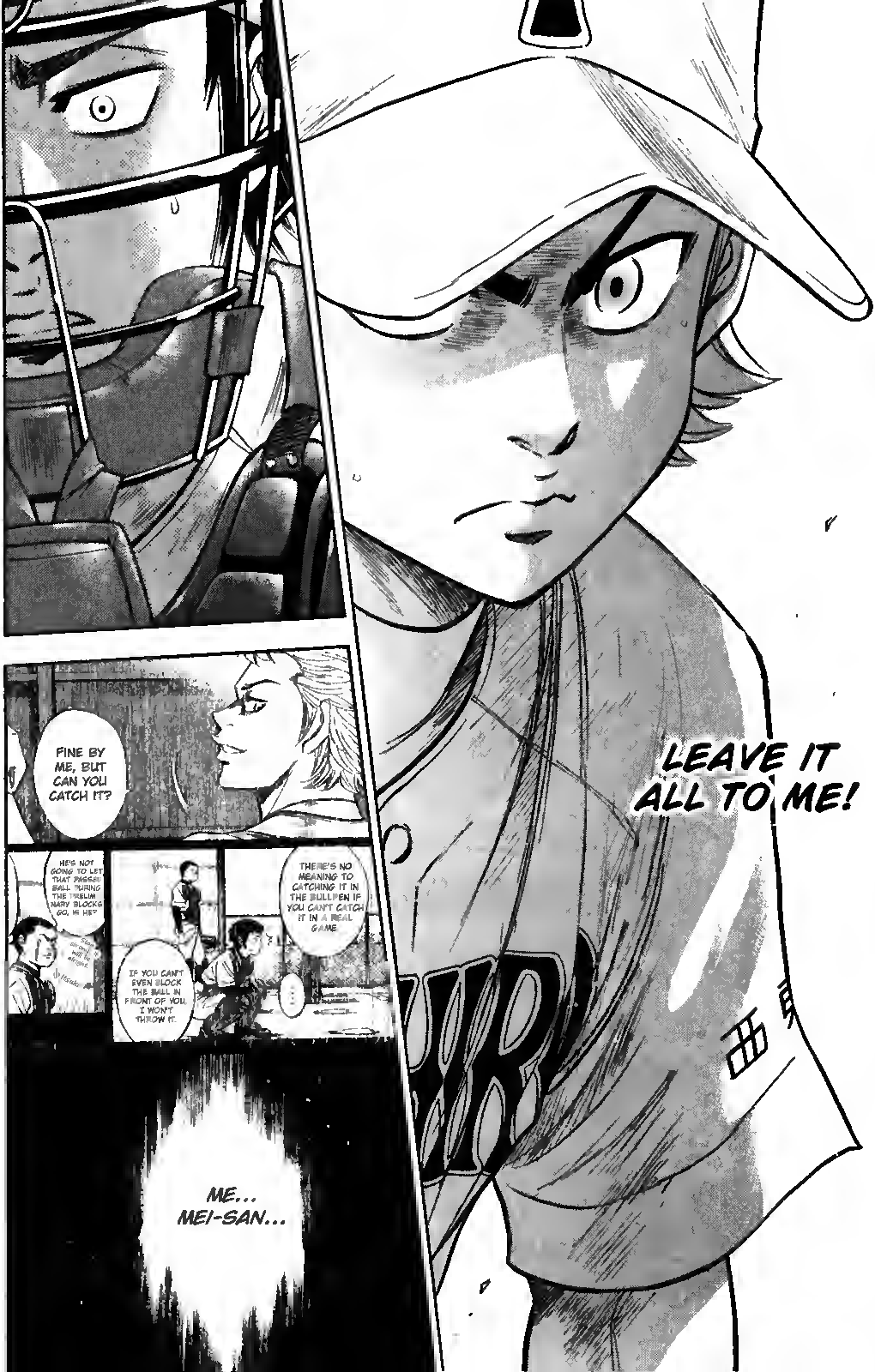
PRESS 'EM, PRESS 'EM!
A FASTBALL TO THE OUTSIDE!
FOUL!
NICE SWING! GET A HIT!
YOU'VE GOT THEM, MEI!!
UME-CHAN!
WHAT? YOU STILL HAVEN'T RUN--?
THE FOURTH PITCH ——

DAAH!
1
THAT GUY KEEPS ON SWINGING...
HE'S STILL DOING FULL SWINGS EVEN WHEN HE'S CORNERED?
IT WOULD BE BAD IF HE DOES HIT.
A SLIDER TO THE INSIDE!
D
AAAH!!

1 BALL, 2 STRIKES!
THE BATTERY STILL HAS THE ADVANTAGE ON THE COURT.
WHAT WILL THE BATTERY DO NEXT?!
KAKUU-YAA!
WE'VE SHOWN THE FASTBALL TO THE OUTSIDE AND TO THE INSIDE MANY TIMES TO THEM,
FOR THE KNOCK-OUT, THROW A LOW CHANGEUP...
THERE'S A RUNNER AT THIRD, BUT I'LL DEFINITELY DEAL WITH HIM.

INASHIRO
西
東京
.....
THEN...
A FORKBALL...

IT SEEMS THEY CAN'T DECIDE ON A SIGN, HUH?
EVEN THOUGH THEY'VE GOT HIM CORNERED...
NO DOUBT...
THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH YOU CAN DO HERE.
MAKING ME WAIT MAKES ME SO SICK THAT I COULD DIE, YOU KNOW!
WHAT'S WRONG? COME ON ALREADY!
WE'LL SHUT HIM DOWN HERE WITH ONLY THE FASTBALL...
DON'T WORRY, ITSUKI...


FINE BY ME, BUT CAN YOU CATCH IT?
HE'S NOT GOING TO LET THAT PASSED BALL TURING THE PRELIMINARY BLOCKS GO, HI HE?
THERE'S NO MEANING TO CATCHING IT IN THE BULLPEN IF YOU CAN'T CATCH IT IN A REAL GAME
IF YOU CAN'T EVEN BLOCK THE BALL IN FRONT OF YOU, I WON'T THROW IT.
ME... MEI-SAN...
LEAVE IT ALL TO ME!

IT'S THE ACE'S MISSION TO LEAD THE TEAM TO VICTORY, RIGHT?
NOW THAT MASA-SAN IS GONE..
IF I DON'T PULL THEM TOGETHER...
THE TEAM WON'T WIN!

ACE OF DIAMOND BRIGADE

RW: MASO-CHAN

TL: HISA-HISA

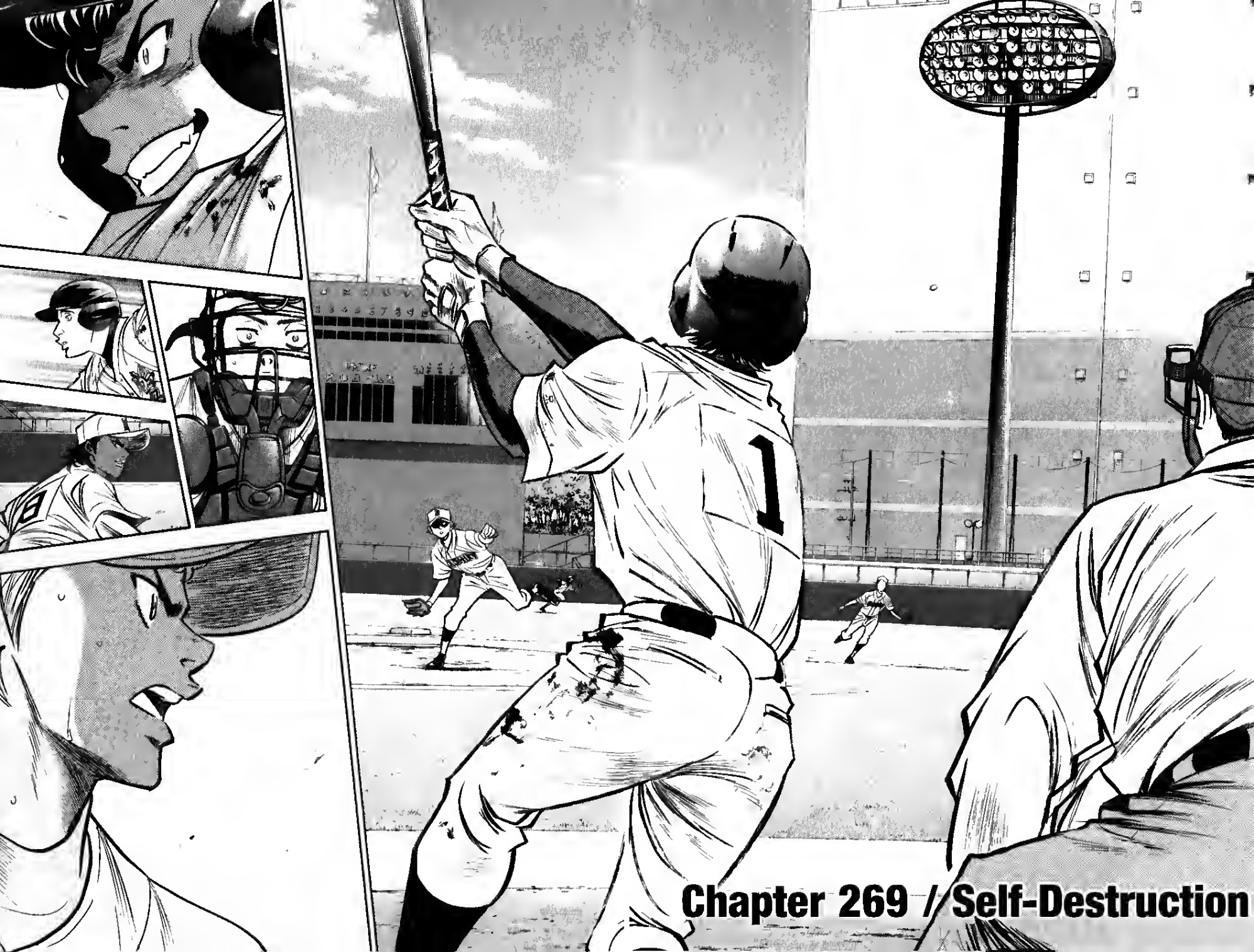
CL: KALLAMEZ

PR: CLOWNKING, KALLAMEZ

TS: KALLAMEZ

QC: KALAMEZ

EVEN IF THEY THROW A BREAKING BALL ...
I WILL KEEP SWINGING THE SAME WAY.
ダイヤのA
GIVE ME A FASTBALL
A FASTBALL!!



Chapter 269 / Self-Destruction

STRAIGHT TO THE GAP BETWEEN CENTER AND RIGHT FIELD!
RUNNER FROM FIRST IS HEADING TOWARDS THIRD AS WELL!
LEAVE IT TO ME!!
RUNNER FROM THIRD MADE IT HOME!

ONWARD! YOU LOT!
THIS IS OUR OKEHAZAMA*!!
EDIN: A BATTLE THAT STABLISHED NOBUNAGA AS A MAJOR WARLORD DURING THE SENGOKU PERIOD
THE RUNNER MADE IT TO THIRD!
BACK TO HOME, THE RELAY...

IT WILL BE A CLOSE PLAY AT HOME BASE!
JUST NOW THE GLOVE DIDN'T TOUCH ME AT ALL

SAFE—!!

RUNNERS AT THIRD AND FIRST MADE IT HOME IN A FLASH!
SFX: CLAP, CLAP
A FIERCE TURN-AROUND FROM UGUMORI HIGH SCHOOL!!
鵜

NICE BATTING.
SFX: CLAP, CLAP
DOOOORAAAAAA!!!
THE 4TH BATTER, UMEMIYA, GOT AN INVALUABLE TWO RBI DOUBLE
DOARAH!!
IT'S NOT DOARAH... THOUGH.
FROM THE LEFTY NATIONAL LEADER

HE GOT HIT!
NARUMIYA MEI!
1
TH...THE LAST ONE WAS A FASTBALL...?
WHY DIDN'T THEY USE A BREAKING BALL?
...ITSUKI

Y...YES...
THE BALL..
BA-DUM!

RIGHT NOW...
YE...YES, SIR!
WHA...
TAKAHASHI, GET READY.
DON'T TELL ME THE COACH...
IS GOING TO REPLACE NARUMIYA?

江戸川区球

WIN THE NEXT ONE!
MIYUKI !!
NICE GAME, SEIDOU!

WE'VE BEEN DOING WELL SO FAR..

THE TIME HAS FINALLY COME...
YEAH..

I'M GETTING THAT QUESTION A LOT.

HOW DID IT FEEL BEING A STARTING MEMBER?

TO GET OUR REVENGE ON INAJITSU
IF WE CAN'T WIN TOMORROW, THERE WILL BE NO MORE AFTER THAT.
TOKYO
SEIDO

SAWAMURA, NICE PITCH!!
PROBABLY A FLUKE THOUGH
JUST A FLUKE
NOT BAD!!

THANK YOU!

CALM DOWN, FURUYA!
RESERVE THAT FIGHTING SPIRIT FOR TOMORROW!
TOKYO

WHAT'S THE MATTER, SERGEANT?!
IF YOU WANT TO JOIN US, WHY DON'T YOU COME OUT FROM THE CORNER?
I didn't want to, I thought
NO..

I'VE BEEN THINKING HOW STRANGE OF A PITCHER YOU ARE..
EH?!

EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT..

YOU WERE SCARED OF THROWING AN INSIDE PITCH BEFORE, RIGHT?
WHY DO YOU SUDDENLY LOOK LIKE YOU CAN THROW IT...?

I'M STILL SCARED OF THROWING ONE...
EVEN NOW.

BUT, BEING TAKEN OFF THE MOUND, WITHOUT EVEN BEING ABLE TO DO MY OWN PITCHING, IS EVEN SCARIER...
GETTING NERVOUS...
AND LOSING YOURSELF...

EVEN IF THAT WAS ALL I COULD DO AT THE TIME...
I DON'T WANT TO TASTE THE SAME BITTERNESS TWICE
青道
OKYO

.....
IF IT WASN'T FOR THAT, I COULDN'T PRACTICE LIKE AN IDIOT EVERY DAY.
WE PRACTICE BECAUSE WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE!
WE WON'T SAY THAT IT'S TOUGH OR HOT!!

RECKLESS, SINGLE-MINDEDNESS MAY ALSO BE ONE KIND OF ABILITY...
I SEE

MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO ALSO THROW TO THE INSIDE?
COULD IT BE THAT, HAVING A HUGE CONFIDENCE IN THE OUTSIDE PITCH...
THEY SAY THAT EVERY PERSON HAS THEIR OWN METHOD OF OVERCOMING YIPS BUT...
I ALSO HEARD THAT PRACTICING REPEATEDLY, LEARNING A FIRM TECHNIQUE, AND HAVING CONFIDENCE IS SURELY THE BEST SHORTCUT FOR RECOVERY IN THE END.
AMAZING APPEAL FROM SAWAMURA, AS ALWAYS!
HAHAHA! THE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AT THIS STAGE SURE GROW FAST...!
IF I CAN THROW TOMORROW, I FEEL LIKE I CAN PITCH BETTER THAN I DID TODAY!
SAWAMURA IS PROBABLY THE ONE WHO WANTS REVENGE THE MOST, TOMORROW...
EVERYTHING STARTED FROM THAT DEAD BALL...

THEY'RE TALKING WITH NABE ON THE PHONE.
I WONDER IF THE OTHER TEAM'S MATCH HAS FINISHED.
AT OOTA STADIUM?
EH!? INAJITSU..
LOST?

SORRY FOR THE DELAY ~ ~
MY ISP, ALLEGEDLY, WAS DOING A MAINTENANCE IN MY AREA AND I WAS OUT OF INTERNET FOR 5 DAYS. DON'T WORRY, NOBODY HERE IS IN ANY HURRY TO ABANDON THE PROJECT AND DROP DOWN FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH.

- KALLAMEZ

ACE OF DIAMOND BRIGADE

RW: MASO-CHAN

TL: HISA-HISA

CL: KALLAMEZ

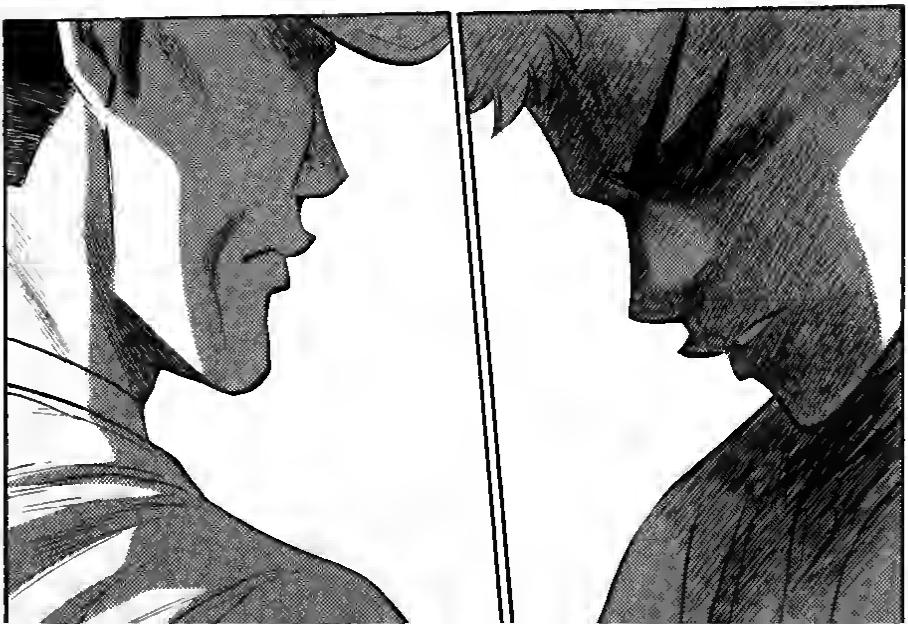
PR: CLOWNKING, KALLAMEZ

TS: KALLAMEZ

QC: KALAMEZ

Chapter 270 / Not Satisfied

SIGN: PLAYER'S ENTRANCE
選手入口



TOP OF THE 9TH INNING, 2 OUTS, RUNNER AT SECOND
AT THE BATTER'S BOX, 4TH BATTER, YAMAOKA!
SFX: BAM BAM BAM
THERE ARE NO MORE CHANCES FOR THE KINGS OF THE SUMMER, INAJITSU!
SFX: BAM BAM BAM

CAN UGAMORI HIGH SCHOOL SHAKE THEM OFF?
ONLY ONE MORE OUT UNTIL THEY DEFEAT THEIR SUPERIOR OPPONENT!
ONE MORE!
UMEMIYA!
FINISH 'EM, UME-CHAN!

西東

IT'S POPPED SKY HIGH!
FIRST BASEMAN, IMIBUSHI RAISES HIS HAND HIGH, AND...
HE CAUGHT IT!

A ROLLERCOASTER OF EMOTIONS, HERE IN THE 2ND ROUND OF THE FALL TOURNAMENT!
THE RUNNER-UP FROM LAST YEAR SUMMER KOUSHIEN HAS BEEN ELIMINATED!
TODAY'S DEFEAT...
FLINCH!

IT WAS MY RESPONSIBILITY AS THE COACH
...

FOR SENDING YOU TO THE MOUND

ドン

……!!

COMPARED TO HARADA, TADANO'S INEXPERIENCE WAS A GIVEN.
EVEN SO, HE TOOK GREAT PAIN INTO LEADING YOU TO BRING OUT YOUR VERY BEST

THE OTHER TEAM MEMBERS ALSO FOLLOWED YOU SOMEWHAT.

EVERYONE... INCLUDING MYSELF.
HAVING A STRONG SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY...
AND NOT RELYING ON YOUR COMRADES ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS.

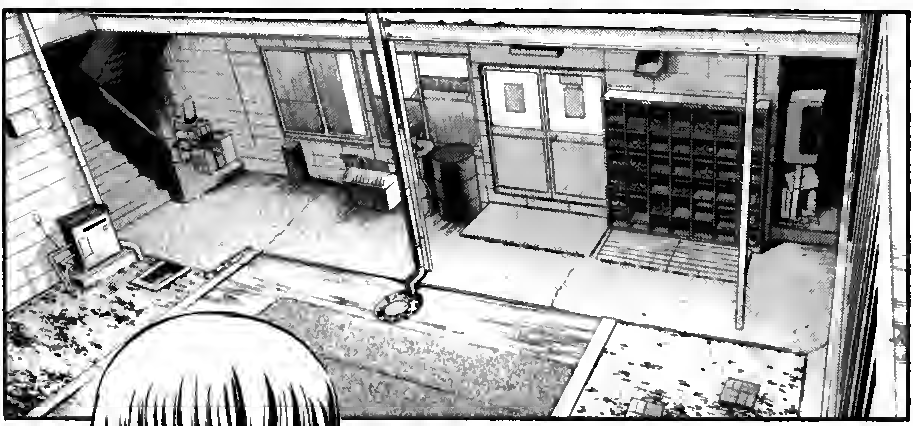
A CONCEITED PITCHER CAN NEVER BE CALLED THE ACE.
WASHIRO

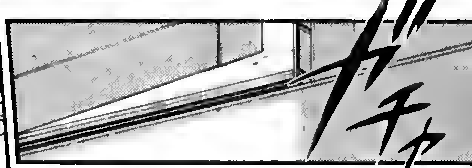
IS NARUMIYA GOING TO BE ALRIGHT...?
YES.

SOONER OR LATER, WE'LL PROBABLY ENCOUNTER A HUGE WALL.
IF IT'S THAT GUY, HE WILL DEFINITELY RECOVER.
THE NEXT SUMMER WILL SURELY BE A CRUCIAL MOMENT...

TO CRAWL UP ONCE MORE FROM THIS DEFEAT.
OKAY, HEADS UP!
WE'RE GOING BACK!!
TOKYO HIGH SCHOOL FALL TOURNAMENT 2ND ROUND
INASHIRO INDUSTRIAL (WEST TOKYO) VS UGUMORI (EAST TOKYO)
RESULT 1-2
BE PREPARED FOR THIS OFF-SEASON!

BUS' SIDE SEIDOU HIGH SCHOOL





WELCOME BACK, NABE
OH! THANKS.
LET'S WATCH THE GAME RIGHT AWAY.

UGUMORI'S TEAM POWER
WHAT WAS IT LIKE WATCHING IN PERSON?

UGUMORI'S STRENGTH, AS THE ONLY REMAINING TEAM FROM THE SUMMER TOURNAMENT'S BEST 16, IS THE REAL THING.
HMM... IT LOOKED MORE LIKE INAJITSU COULDN'T FIGHT TO THEIR FULLEST, BUT...

EXCUSE ME.
SEIDO
IS IT TRUE . THAT NARUMIYA GOT HIT AND LOST?

THEIR CONDITION DOESN'T SEEM TO BE BAD BUT...

DON'T RUSH IT, SAWAMURA!
LET'S WATCH IT FIRST!
WE'RE JUST AS SURPRISED AS YOU ARE.

I'M NOT SATISFIED!!
IT LOOKS LIKE THE BATTERY ITSELF COULDN'T AGREE WITH EACH OTHER..
SEIDO

EVEN IF THEY LOST... THEY DOING IT BEFORE WE PAID THEM BACK FOR SUMMER BOTHERS ME
SIT DOWN, SAWAMURA
EIJUN-KUN...
INSTEAD OF THE TEAM THAT LOST, FOCUS ON OUR OPPONENTS TOMORROW.
SEIDO
GET OVER IT ALREADY.

EH!
THAT KIND OF THINKING IS LIKE SAYING WE CAN'T WIN AGAINST THEM...
RATHER THAN THAT, WE'RE PROBABLY LUCKY IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT NORMALLY.
right
WE WERE ABLE TO AVOID FIGHTING AGAINST NARUMIYA!
THIS MOMENTUM LEFT BY INAJITSU'S DEFEAT IS HUGE
HOPEFULLY, THOUGH, IT WON'T AFFECT THEIR MORALE TOO MUCH
OURS IS A TEAM THAT HAS ALWAYS FOCUSED ON THEIR CURRENT OBJECTIVE
IF WE GET CARELESS, WE'LL...
THAT KIND OF THINKING IS EVEN WORSE!!
WE WILL WIN!

O's
HARUHIYA'S
DELICIOUS
TEARS

ACE OF DIAMOND BRIGADE

RW: MASO-CHAN

TL: HISA-HISA

CL: KALLAMEZ

PR: CLOWNKING, KALLAMEZ

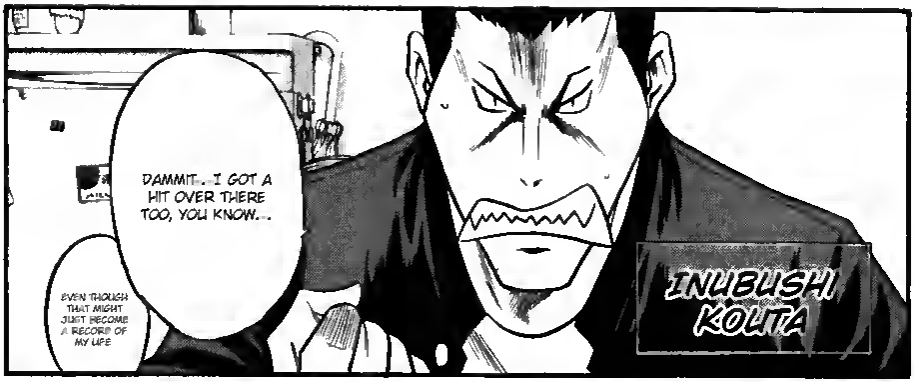
TS: KALLAMEZ

QC: KALAMEZ

Chapter 271 / Challenger

ADACHI CITY, METROPOLITAN TOKYO
I WILL NEVER FORGET THAT FEELING FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE!
THAT "WHOOSH" BETWEEN CENTER AND RIGHT FIELD!
AHAHA, SERIOUSLY?
野球部部室

HE ALREADY MADE A START WITHOUT HESITATING.
OONISHI TERUMI
I KNEW IT WOULD BREAK THROUGH THE MOMENT YOU HIT!
EVERYONE IN THE BENCH WAS TURNING THEIR HANDS TOO
KONDO DAIKI

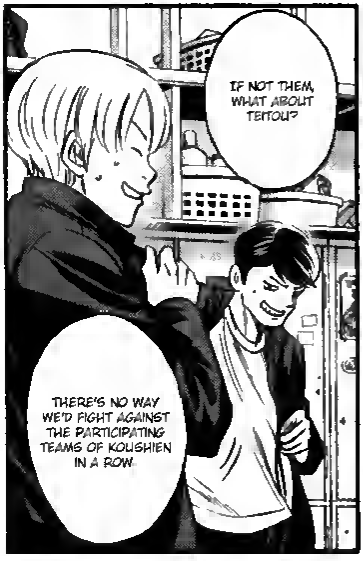

DAMMIT... I GOT A HIT OVER THERE TOO, YOU KNOW...
EVEN THOUGH THAT MIGHT JUST BECOME A RECORD OF MY LIFE
INUBUSHI KOUTA

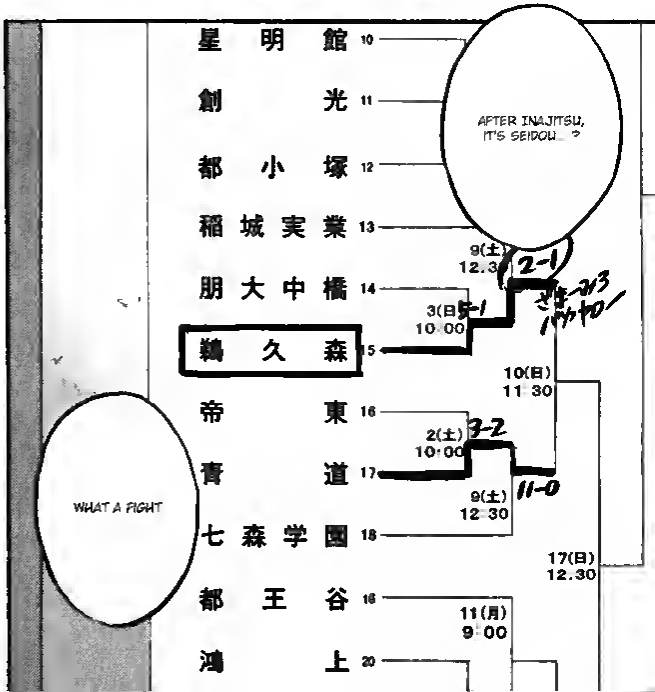
全力・継続
THIS IS EVERYONE'S VICTORY.
WE PULLED THROUGH INAJITSU'S ONSLAUGHT AFTERWARDS.
MATSUBARA NAO

YOU'RE GOING TO PITCH AGAIN TOMORROW.
QUICKLY TAKE A BATH AND GO TO SLEEP EARLY!!

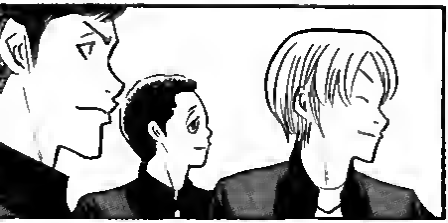
WE DID IT!
WE GOT IT'S SEAT BY THOSE TWO
OHH! I RELIED ON YOU GUYS LIKE I WAS GOING TO DIE!
THE TROUSERS ARE ALWAYS THE LAST, HUH?

I'M GOING TO PROPERLY LOOK INTO SEIDOU.
THERE'S NO TIME FOR THAT!
全力継続
LET ME BASK IN THE GLORY OF OUR VICTORY A LITTLE MORE!


IF NOT THEM, WHAT ABOUT TEITOU?
THERE'S NO WAY WE'D FIGHT AGAINST THE PARTICIPATING TEAMS OF KOUSHIEN IN A ROW.


星明館 10
創光 11
都小塚 12
稲城実業 13
朋大中橋 14
鵜久森 15
帝東 16
青道 17
七森学園 18
都王谷 19
鴻上 20
AFTER INAJITSU, IT'S SEIDOU...?
9(土) 12.30
2-1
3(日) 10:00
1-1
10(日) 11:30
2(土) 10:00
3-2
9(土) 12:30
11-0
17(日) 12.30
11(月) 9:00
WHAT A FIGHT

WHO AND WHERE OUR OPPONENTS COME FROM HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS!
BECAUSE WE'RE THE CHALLENGERS AS ALWAYS



THE CHALLENGERS, HUH...?

LET'S BASK IN THE GLORY ONLY AFTER WE'VE REACHED THAT STAGE

YOU THINK YOU'RE SO GREAT JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE A YEAR OLDER?!
HEY!
AH... AH...
HIMEMIYA... YOU...
DO YOU KNOW WHO YOU'RE TALKING...
IF YOU WANT ME TO BE POLITE, THEN TRY BEING A SENIOR THAT WE CAN RESPECT!

ASU
007
DON'T STRIKE SOMEONE WITH YOUR DOMINANT HAND!
IF YOU'RE SERIOUS ABOUT PLAYING BASEBALL...
HE... HEY!
STOP IT, UMEMIYA!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE LIKE THAT, THEN WE DON'T NEED YOU ON THIS TEAM!!
SHUT UP!
I'M SUCH AN IDIOT.... I LEFT MY MIDDLE SCHOOL'S BASEBALL CLUB AS SOON AS I ENTERED IT....
FROM NOW ON, YOU'RE LEAVING THE TEAM!

全力・継続
IF YOU WEREN'T HERE, I WOULD HAVE...
NAO...

IT ISN'T ONLY ME.
THE ONES WHO HAVE GATHERED TO THIS SCHOOL FOR YOUR SAKE...

ALRIGHT, I'M HEADING OFF FIRST!
SEE YA', LIME-CHAN.
EVERYONE HERE HAS ONLY GAINED SOME KIND OF COURAGE FROM YOUR STRENGTH.

全力・継続
SEE YOU TOMORROW!
I'M DEVOTING MY 3 YEARS TO YOU.
SEE YA!

I'M GOING TO TAKE EVERYONE...
TO THE STAGE THAT BASTARD DREAMS!
LATER!
I KNOW THAT! SEE YA!
UME-CHAN, DON'T DO ANYTHING STUPID, OKAY?
YOU'VE GOT A RECORD THIS SUMMER!
I'LL ANNOUNCE THE STARTING MEMBERS TOMORROW.
THE STARTING PITCHER IS FURUYA

IN NO WAY SHOULD YOU LOWER YOUR GUARDS DURING THE GAME UNTIL WE'VE WON
THE OPPONENT HAS DEFEATED INAJITSU AND THE MOMENTUM IS ON THEIR SIDE

AND THAT "VERTICAL SLIDER"?
THE SLOW CURVEBALL...

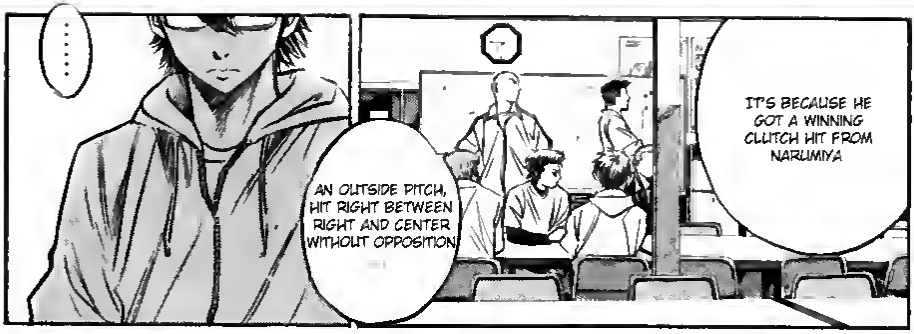
I WONDER HOW WE'RE GOING TO DEAL WITH THOSE 2 BREAKING BALLS...

...EIJUN, YOU'RE NOT GOING?

YES, SIR!
THAT IS ALL DISMISSED

SHIT...I CAN'T MOVE MY BODY ANYMORE!!
HOW DID THAT HAPPEN?!
I'M GETTING REALLY ANGRY FOR SOME REASON ...
I WAS GOING TO DESTROY THEM HERE ...
AND, SUDDENLY, THEY FELL.
YOU MIGHT PITCH IN TOMORROW'S GAME!
DON'T GET RECKLESS TODAY, SAWAMURA!
JUN-SAN ALWAYS MADE US MASSAGE HIM, SO WE'RE RATHER GOOD AT IT.
WE'LL TEACH YOU SOME LIGHT STRETCHES
WHEN YOU GET OUT OF THE BATH, COME TO OUR ROOM!

UMEMIYA SEIICHI...
THE KEYMAN FOR PITCHING AND BATTING IS DEFINITELY THIS GUY


.....
AN OUTSIDE PITCH, HIT RIGHT BETWEEN RIGHT AND CENTER WITHOUT OPPOSITION
IT'S BECAUSE HE GOT A WINNING CLUTCH HIT FROM NARUMIYA

THE CATCHER'S LEAD WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE TO FINISH THEM OFF WITH A BREAKING BALL IN THE LAST PITCH

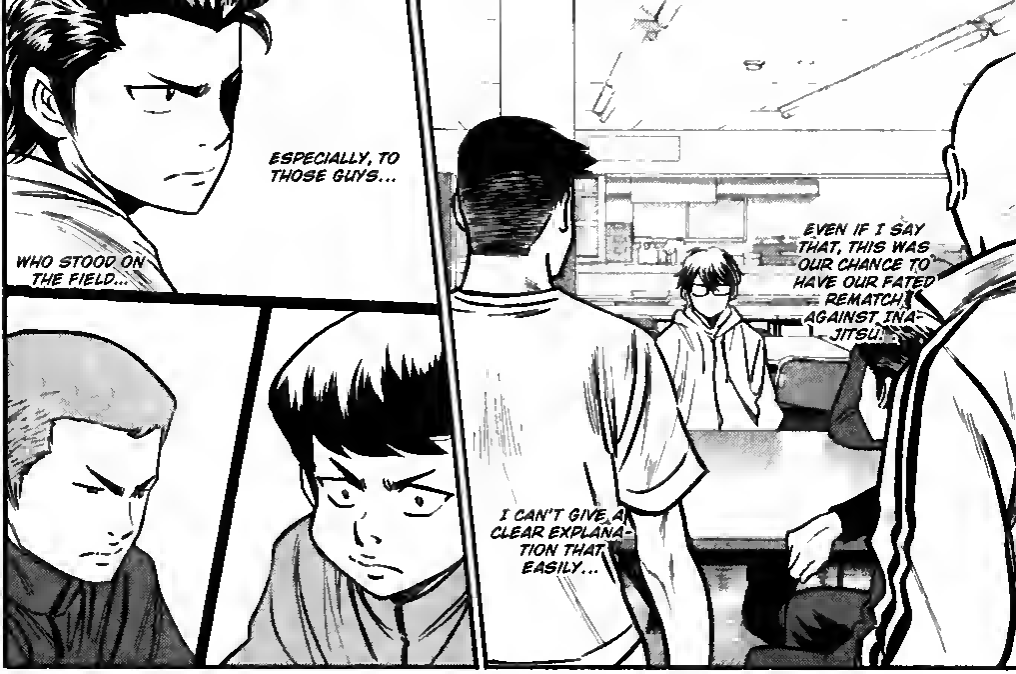
HUH?
THAT WAS SUICIDE.

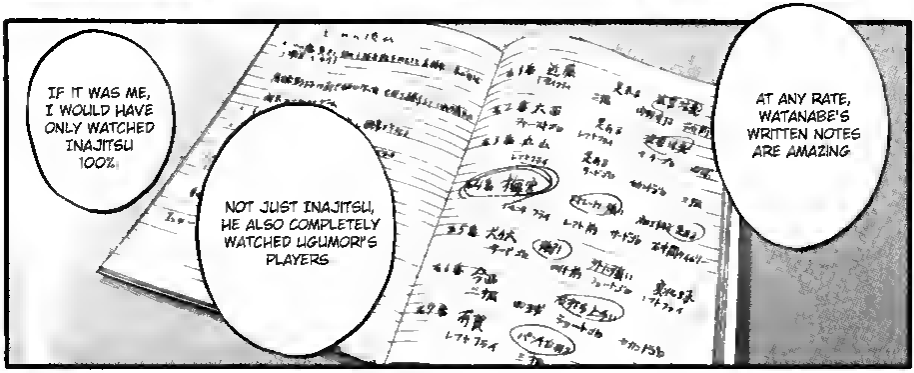
THE MATCH WAS DECIDED THE MOMENT HE SHOOK HIS HEAD
I DON'T KNOW WHAT ON EARTH WAS NARUMIYA THINKING BUT,
TNA SHIRO

IF I WERE THE CATCHER, I WOULDN'T LET THAT SELFISHNESS THROUGH...
YOU'RE MAD, AREN'T YOU?
I'M NOT MAD!
IS MIYUKI MAD AT SOMETHING?
.....
INDEED... I MIGHT HAVE SEEN SOME FORCIBILITY...
THE INDIVIDUAL SKILL OF INAJITSU'S PLAYERS WAS OVERWHELMINGLY HIGH, BUT, ON THAT DAY, THE STRONGER TEAM WAS UGUMO!... THAT'S WHAT THAT MEANS, RIGHT?
THEIR OFFENSE WASN'T GEARED PROPERLY. THEY WERE TOO STIFF...
IT'S OBVIOUS THEY WERE GOING TO LOSE

ANYWAY, THE BIG WALL TOWARDS THE CHAMPIONSHIPS HAS COLLAPSED.
AS FAR AS WE'RE CONCERNED, IT WOULD BE BEST TO THINK WE HAVE A STRONG ADVANTAGE.

LET'S FEAST THOROUGHLY ON UGUMORI'S MOMENTUM!!


ESPECIALLY, TO THOSE GUYS...
WHO STOOD ON THE FIELD...
EVEN IF I SAY THAT, THIS WAS OUR CHANCE TO HAVE OUR FATED REMATCH AGAINST INA-JITSU!
I CAN'T GIVE A CLEAR EXPLANATION THAT EASILY...

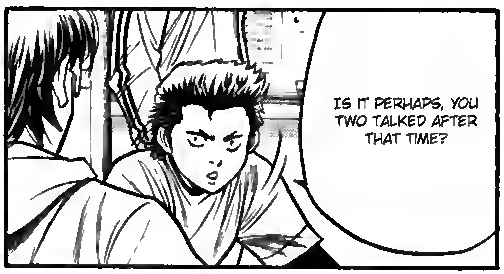

IF IT WAS ME, I WOULD HAVE ONLY WATCHED INAJITSU 100%
NOT JUST INAJITSU, HE ALSO COMPLETELY WATCHED UGUMORI'S PLAYERS
AT ANY RATE, WATANABE'S WRITTEN NOTES ARE AMAZING

.....
YOU THOUGHT THIS WOULD HAPPEN SO YOU LEFT THIS TO NABE?
YEAH SINCE HE'S A GUY WHO COMPLETELY WATCHES A GAME'S MOVEMENT..

BUT IN THE NEXT ONE,
HE MIGHT NOT GO ..

WHAT DO YOU MEAN "HE MIGHT NOT GO"?
YOU MEAN "HE DOESN'T WANT TO GO"?

SAWAMURA, DO YOU KNOW THAT MAEKEN EXERCISE?
EH? MAEKEN?


IS IT PERHAPS, YOU TWO TALKED AFTER THAT TIME?

YEAH.. I TALKED TOGETHER WITH NABE..

No clue here.
Ah! Kenichiroo?
IT'S HARD FOR ME TO SAY THIS RIGHT NOW BUT...
WHO'S THAT!?
HE'S THE FAMOUS MAEYAMADA KENSHIROUSHI WHO INVENTED THE MAEKEN EXERCISE 2...5...
O... OF COURSE, I KNOW HIM.

(TN: MAEKEN IS SHORT FOR MAEDA KENTA. EIJUN'S COMING UP WITH NAMES HERE)

EVEN THOUGH THEY'VE COMPLETED THE TRAINING DURING SUMMER BREAK... RIGHT NOW, THEY'RE...?
ARE YOU SERIOUS...
OH RIGHT, THAT...
I HAVEN'T TOLD THEM ABOUT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE LEFT AND RIGHT-HANDED BATTERS.
...YEAH
BUT, THERE'S NO WAY THEY THEMSELVES WOULD SAY THAT, RIGHT?
AND...
WHAT DID YOU SAY TO NABE?

HE..
HEY!
ガタッ
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, ZONO!?
ガタッ
I SAID, STOP IT!
YOU... YOU SERIOUSLY SAID SOMETHING LIKE THAT!?
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?!

ACE OF DIAMOND BRIGADE

RW: MASO-CHAN

TL: HISA-HISA

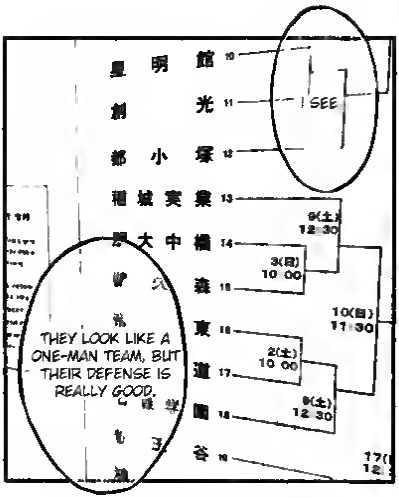
CL: KALLAMEZ

PR: CLOWNKING, KALLAMEZ

TS: KALLAMEZ

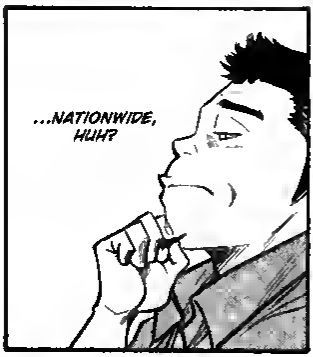
QC: KALAMEZ

Chapter 272 / Cracks


I SEE
THEY LOOK LIKE A ONE-MAN TEAM, BUT THEIR DEFENSE IS REALLY GOOD.

IT'S BECAUSE THEY ARE THE STRONGEST TEAM THAT REMAINED FROM THE SUMMER'S LAST 16
THEY ARE AGRESSIVE AT BASERUNNING, SO THEY AREN'T A TEAM WE SHOULD TAKE LIGHTLY

IT DEPENDS ON WHETHER OR NOT HE CAN PITCH HIS OWN AGAINST THIS KIND OF OPPONENT
EVEN IF YOU LOOK AT IT FROM A NATIONWIDE STANCE, TEAMS THAT CAN SHAKE OFF OPPONENTS ON THE BASE-PATHS ARE INCREASING.
GETTING A POINT WOULD INDEED DEPEND ON FURUYA'S PITCHING.


...NATIONWIDE, HUH?

ALL THE MORE REASON FOR US TO BE WORRIED
NO, NO. HE'LL DEFINITELY DO IT.
HE WAS FIRED UP ALL THE WAY TODAY

I WAS WORRIED ABOUT HAVING A FRAGILE FIRST-YEAR WHEN HE JOINED THE CLUB BUT..
HE HAS ALREADY BEEN A HUGE EXISTENCE IN THIS TEAM

AT ANY RATE, WATANABE'S NOTES ARE WONDERFUL!
YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THE PLAYERS' CHARACTERISTICS RIGHT AWAY.

THIS FALL TOURNAMENT HAD A LOT OF UPS AND DOWNS BUT...
I NEVER THOUGHT THAT THE MOST LIKELY WINNERS WOULD FALL.

MYUKI LEFT THIS TO HIM FIRSTHAND, RIGHT?
...
YEAH, BUT WE ARE STILL IN AUTUMN.
WE JUST MADE A NEW TEAM SO I WONDER WHAT THE PERSON HIMSELF THINKS OF THIS.

SFX. CLANK

IS IT POSSIBLE THAT...
THIS TEAM HAS ALSO STARTED GETTING LUCKY?

HE-
HEY!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, ZONO?!
STOP IT...

I CAN'T STOP SOMEONE...
IF IT'S PAINFUL FOR YOU TO BE ON THIS TEAM...
N-NO...
THAT'S NOT...
WHO SAYS HE'LL WILLINGLY QUIT.
AND THAT YOU WANT TO FOCUS MORE ON STUDYING FOR ENTRANCE EXAMS, THEN I WON'T STOP YOU.

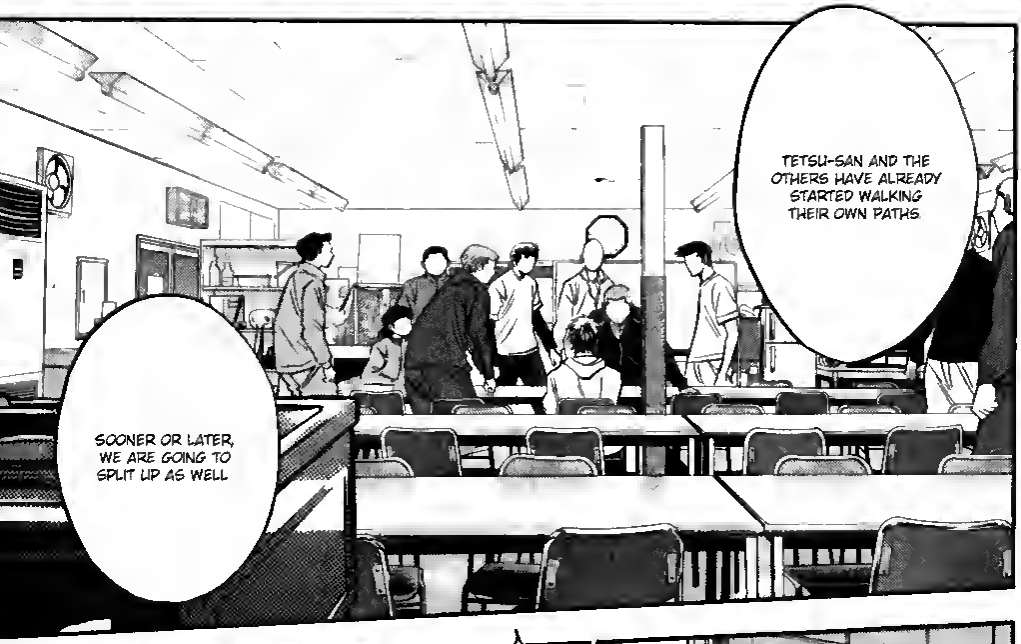
"IF YOU WANT TO QUIT, THEN QUIT IT"!?
IS THAT SOMETHING A CAPTAIN WOULD SAY?!

EH?!
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO SAY?!

ZONO.. STOP IT...
WE HAVE A GAME TOMORROW, YOU KNOW?

WE'VE GATHERED HERE AT SEIDOU TO PLAY BASEBALL.
I DIDN'T KNOW WE CAME HERE TO MAKE FRIENDS
MA... MAKE FRIENDS...?

FROM NOW ON, IT WILL BECOME IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVERYONE...
TO WALK DOWN THE SAME PATH, SIDE BY SIDE.


TETSU-SAN AND THE OTHERS HAVE ALREADY STARTED WALKING THEIR OWN PATHS
SOONER OR LATER, WE ARE GOING TO SPLIT UP AS WELL

WA... WAIT A SECOND...
IF HE HAD A STRONGER WILL, THEN...
DON'T JUST SUDDENLY ASSUME NABE AND THE OTHERS ARE QUITTING!

IF THEY REALLY WANTED TO LEAVE, THEY WOULD HAVE TALKED WITH US ABOUT IT, RIGHT?
THEY WOULDN'T QUIT WITHOUT SAYING A SINGLE WORD, RIGHT?
WE ALSO WOULD WANT TO TALK TO THEM, YOU KNOW?
DON'T FORCE YOUR OWN VALUES ON EVERYBODY ELSE!!
...

MYUKI...
I GET WHAT YOU MEAN, BUT...
WOULD SOMEONE THAT REALLY WANTED TO QUIT, TAKE THESE NOTES?

IF IT'S DOUBT OR ANXIETY...
WE ALL HAVE IT.

BE IT GETTING A REGULAR SPOT...
OR PLAYING IN AN ACTUAL GAME...
OR EVEN JUST GETTING YOU OWN JERSEY NUMBER.

BUT THAT'S EXACTLY WHY THEY COULDN'T JUST QUIT.
THEY KNOW THAT WE ALL UNDERSTAND VERY WELL THOSE INSECURITIES.
SOMEONE LIKE YOU, THAT WAS ALWAYS A REGULAR AND ONLY HAD TO THINK ABOUT WINNING...
WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND OUR FEELINGS, BUT...
...
TCH

ISN'T THE CAPTAIN'S JOB TO ENCOURAGE HIS COMRADES, HELPING THEM SHAKE OFF THOSE ANXIETIES AND DOUBTS THEY'VE BEEN STRUGGLING WITH?

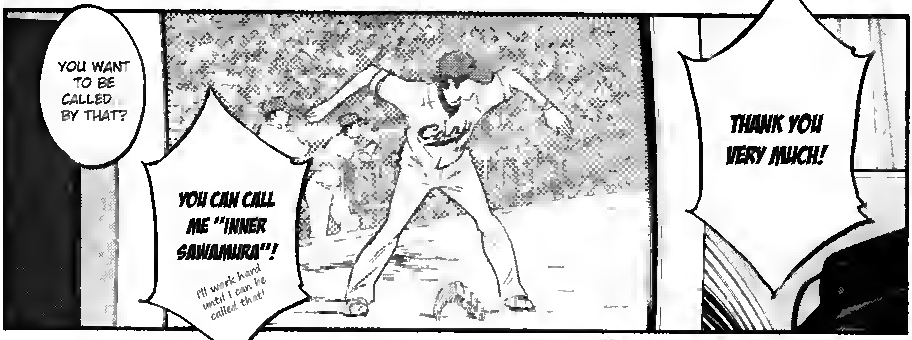
IF YOU'RE GOING TO ABANDON THAT DUTY AND SUDDENLY SAY THAT EVERYONE SHOULD FIGHT THEIR OWN BATTLES...
ZONO...
I DEFINITELY WON'T ACCEPT IT!!

BECAUSE I WON'T ACKNOWLEDGE YOU AS OUR CAPTAIN.

OH, SO THIS IS THE RUMORED MAEKEN EXERCISE.
SAK Y

NOT ONLY THAT, YOU CAN STRENGTHEN YOUR INNER MUSCLES AND PREVENT INJURIES...
MAEKEN ALSO HAS UNUSUALLY SOFT ARMS AND WRISTS
the scapul
ocn
WHEN YOU DO THESE STRETCHES BEFORE PITCHING, YOU CAN CHECK IF YOUR SCAPUL CAN BE USED FOR THROWING.

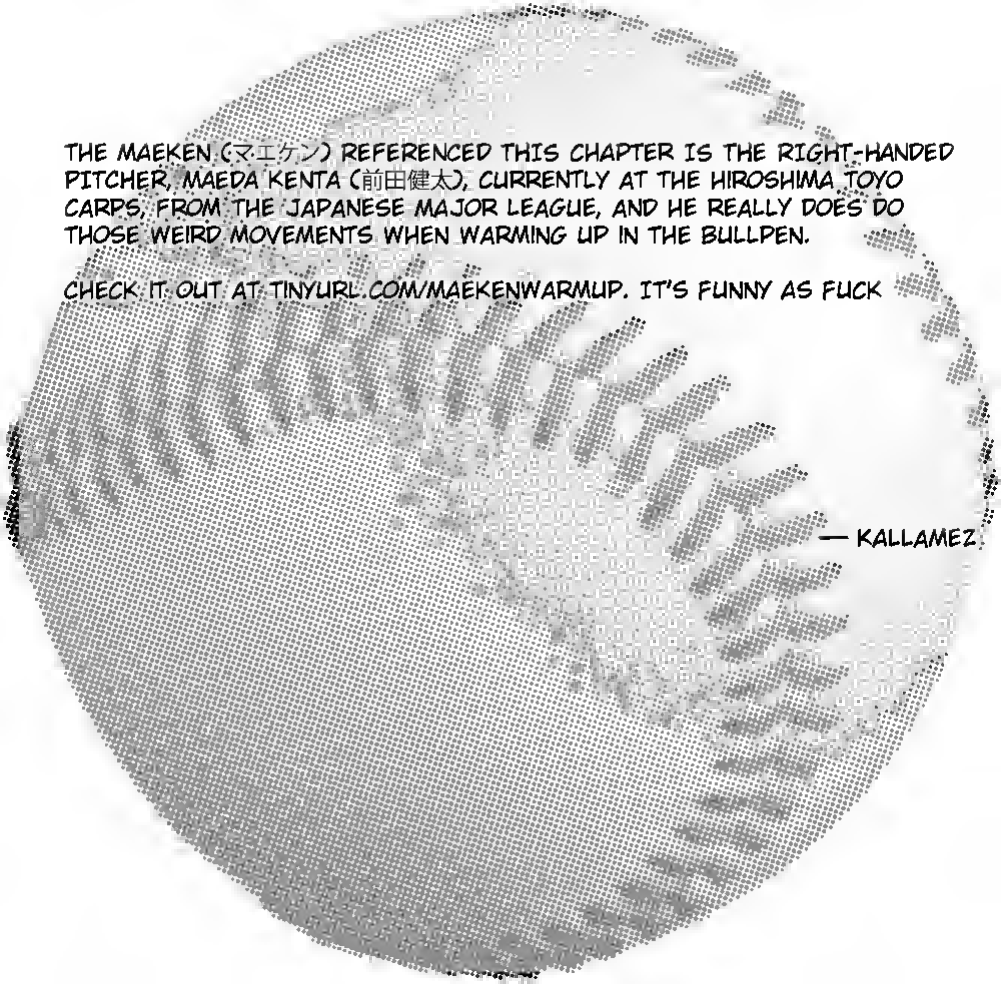
YOU'VE BEEN THROWING IN A FEW GAMES...
EVEN THOUGH YOU'VE ALREADY HEARD IT PLENTY OF TIMES FROM CHRIS-SENPAI, TAKE PROPER CARE OF YOUR BODY.


YOU WANT TO BE CALLED BY THAT?
YOU CAN CALL ME "INNER SAWAMURA"!
I'll work hard until I can be called that!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

WHAT'S THIS
MUSCLES!!
INNER
WAHAHA, AT MY INNER DEMON!

PRO STATUS
SAWAMURA...
YOU'RE SERIOUSLY AMAZING
EH?!
I... IS THAT SO?
PRO STAT
YEAH BECAUSE YOU HAD THIS BIG ATTITUDE
and were really energetic!
EVEN THOUGH, WHEN YOU JOINED THE TEAM, NO ONE THOUGHT YOU WOULD CONTINUE TO GROW UP LIKE YOU DID.
THERE IS THE FACT THAT YOU LOOK LIKE YOU CAN PITCH TO THE INSIDE AGAIN, BUT...

BUT NOW, I THINK A LOT PEOPLE HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED YOU
DO YOUR BEST
TH... THANK YOU!
BUT I GET EMBARRASSED WHEN YOU SAY IT LIKE THAT!


THE MAEKEN (マエケン) REFERENCED THIS CHAPTER IS THE RIGHT-HANDED PITCHER, MAEDA KENTA (前田健太), CURRENTLY AT THE HIROSHIMA TOYO CARPS, FROM THE JAPANESE MAJOR LEAGUE, AND HE REALLY DOES DO THOSE WEIRD MOVEMENTS WHEN WARMING UP IN THE BULLPEN.

CHECK IT OUT AT TINYURL.COM/MAEKENWARMUP. IT'S FUNNY AS FUCK

— KALLAMEZ

ACE OF DIAMOND BRIGADE

RW: MASO-CHAN

TL: HISA-HISA

CL: KALLAMEZ

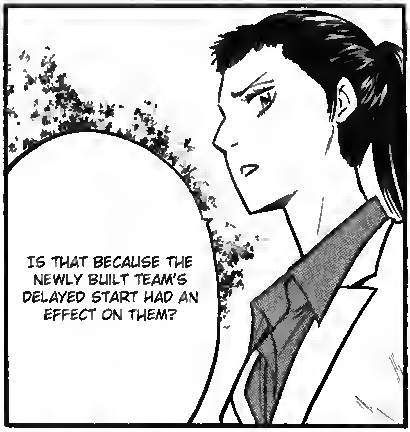
PR: CLOWNKING, KALLAMEZ

TS: KALLAMEZ

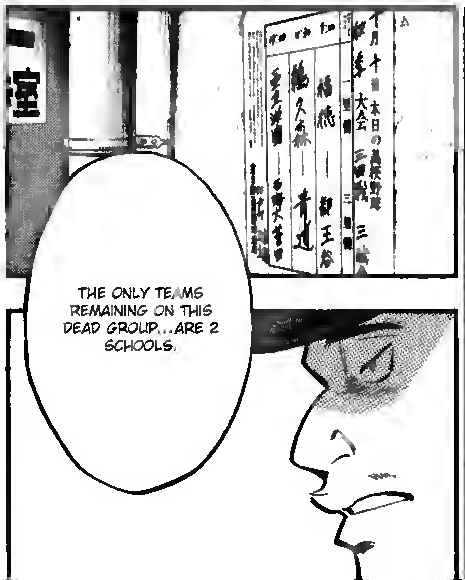
QC: KALAMEZ

Chapter 273 / Set-Up

I'M SURE THE AUDIENCE, WHO WERE ANTICIPATING THE SUMMER TOURNAMENT REMATCH, WAS JUST AS SURPRISED.
I NEVER WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT INAJITSU WOULD HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED ON THE 2ND ROUND


IS THAT BECAUSE THE NEWLY BUILT TEAM'S DELAYED START HAD AN EFFECT ON THEM?

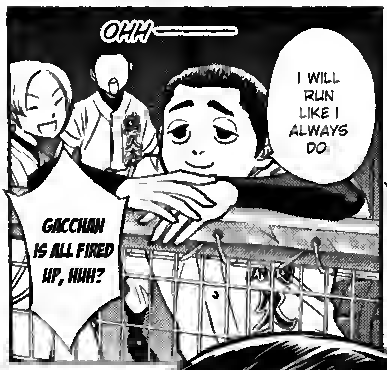
NARUMIYA, WHO BECAME A RELIEF PITCHER, GOT HIT. BECAUSE OF THAT, THEY GOT CRUSHED WITHOUT A COUNTERATTACK
THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR THAT.


THE ONLY TEAMS REMAINING ON THIS DEAD GROUP...ARE 2 SCHOOLS.

WELL, THERE'S THAT... BUT THERE ARE STILL STRONG TEAMS, BESIDES INAJITSU.
COACH KUNITOMO IS PROBABLY VERY CONCERNED ABOUT REBUILDING HIS TEAM.

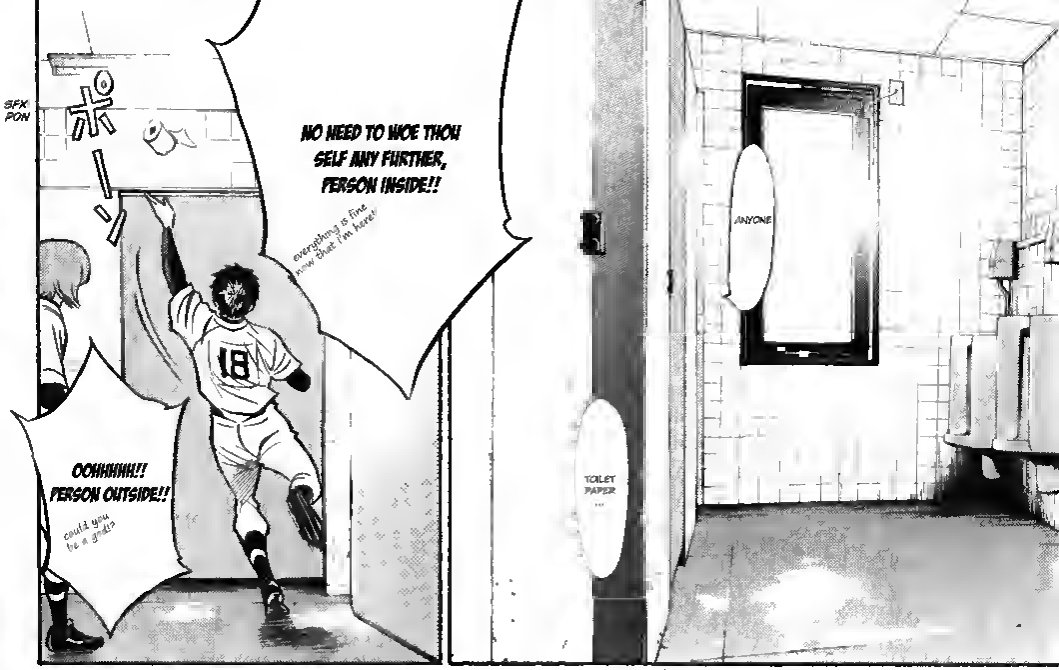
BOTH, TEAMS THAT DEFEATED KOUSHIEN PARTICIPANTS AT THE SAME TIME
4:00
11:30
9:00
秋季大
十日太
福徳 — 都王谷
鵜久森 — 青道
亜立学園 — 西海大菅田
SEIDOU, THAT WON AGAINST TEITOU
AND UGUMORI, WHO WON AGAINST INAJITSU
NO MATTER WHO WINS, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT IT WILL BE A TOUGH GAME

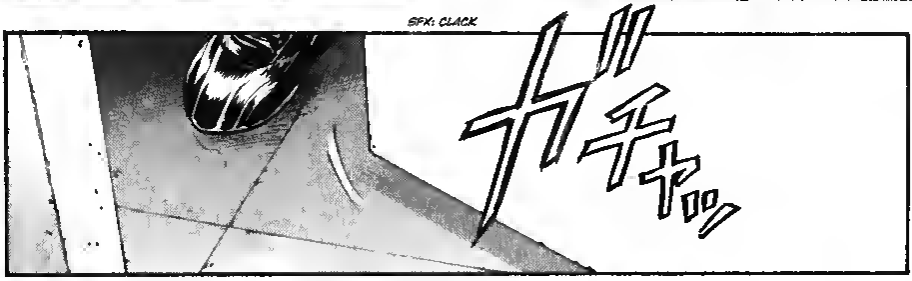
ED/N: THAT'S AROUND 94 MPH



ONCE WE GET ON BASE, THAT'S THE ONLY THING WE CAN DO.
SINCE THEY'VE WON AGAINST IN JITSU, THEY HAVE RELAXED AND DON'T LOOK TOO STIFF...
HA HA HA
THAT'S RIGHT
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'LL BE ABLE TO FIGHT LIKE THEY ALWAYS DO...
区球場

AH! SEE, THERE IT IS!
THIS WAY IS DEFINITELY CLOSER!
SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHERE'S UMEMIYA?
HE'S TAKING A WHILE, DON'T YOU THINK.
HE WENT TO THE RESTROOM EARLIER BUT...
SINCE YOU ARE THE STARTING PITCHER, I'M GOING TO BE BUSY IN THE BULLPEN, SO IT CAN'T BE HELPED!
YOU'LL HAVE TO PITCH WELL FROM THE START, OKAY?
THERE'S GOING TO BE A LOT OF ANNOYING RUNNERS
青道
HEY!


SFX: PON
NO NEED TO WOE THOU SELF ANY FURTHER, PERSON INSIDE!!
everything is fine now that I'm here!
OOHHHHH!! PERSON OUTSIDE!!
could you be a grad?
ANYONE
TOILET PAPER ...

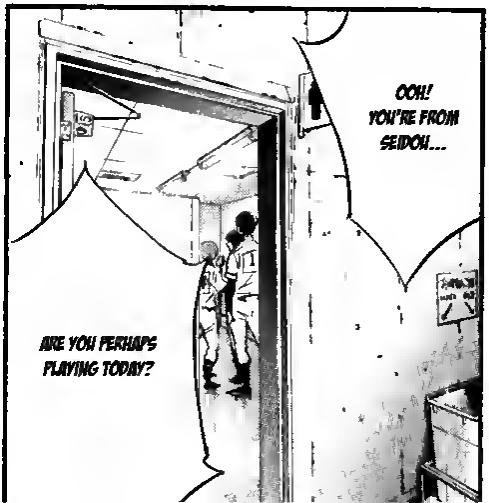

SFX: CLACK
ガチャ

AHHHH... I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO DIE
WHY DO I FEEL SO HOPELESS WHENEVER THERE'S NO TOILET PAPER AROUND?
青道

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!

don't say something like that!
YOU'RE UGUMORI'S BAD-MOUTHED CORNHEAD...

it stands out so much
AH.. YES FOR THE TIME BEING
1
HE'S THE STARTING PITCHER FOR TODAY


OOH! YOU'RE FROM SEIDOU...
ARE YOU PERHAPS PLAYING TODAY?

DID YOU EAT YOUR MEALS PROPERLY?
HE IS SURPRISINGLY FRIENDLY
YOU'RE BIGGER THAN I THOUGHT!
PLEASE WASH YOUR HANDS
OOHHH... SO YOU'RE FURUYA? NICE TO MEET YOU!
EHEM!
CALL ME "THE BLAZING SOUTHPAW", SAWAMURA EIJUN.
ER..BY THE WAY, I WAS THE ONE WHO PITCHED ALL ALONE LAST TIME
BUT, I WONDER WHICH ONE IS MORE AMAZING..
I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU. ALONG WITH BEING A FIRST YEAR LIKE FURUYA, YOU THROW AN OUTRAGEOUS CUTTING FASTBALL, RIGHT?

NARUMIYA'S PITCH WAS EXTREMELY NASTY
お願い
THE ADRENALINE WAS PUMPING OUT.
AH!
BY THE WAY, I WAS THE ONE WHO HIT IT!
DID YOU KNOW THAT?!

ゴゴゴ
青道

WHAT..?
YOU ALREADY WANNA GO AT IT?

THIS MAN'S PITCH IS EVEN NASTIER!
Why did you have to go there...
SO, TAKE CARE NOT TO FALL ON YOUR ASS WHEN YOU ARE NAILED AT THE BATTER'S BOX!!
INTERESTING...
DON'T RUN AWAY.
鵜久森

GRR ...
GRRRRR ....
I WANT A CRACKLING HEATED BATTLE
18
1
BRING IT ON!
WE'RE GOING TO KNOCK YOU OUT WITH YOUR SPITS!
YEAH! wait, that's wrong..

AS SCHEDULED, THE 2ND MATCH ...
WILL BEGIN AT 11:30.
3

WELL, RIGHT AFTER YESTERDAY, TODAY IS LIKE THIS.
IT'S LIKE NOBODY IS CHATTING ...
IT REALLY ISN'T LIVELY AT ALL
TOKYO

BUT, IF THE GAME IS LIKE THIS, WE ARE PROBABLY GOING TO BE FINE
BOTH TEAMS ARE AIMING TO WIN, AFTER ALL.

DON'T WAIT FOR AN EASY BALL! SWING AGRESSIVELY NO MATTER WHAT!!
AIM FOR THE FASTBALL UNTIL THEY'RE CORNERED!
FOCUS TOWARDS CENTER FIELD

TAKE THE INITIATIVE!!
YES, SIR!
TEAM
UGUMORI
SEIDOU
4 5 6 7 8

RIGHT NOW...
LET'S FOCUS ONLY ON DEFEATING THE ENEMY RIGHT IN FRONT OF US.

I GOT IT...
ZONO
I GOT IT!
IF INAJITSU WAS OUR OKEHAZAMA, THEN...
WHAT IS SEIDOU?
OUR NAGASHINO*?

IF WE TAKE THIS GAME, WE'LL BE A STEP CLOSER...
TOWARDS THAT PEERLESS' GRAND STAGE.
BUT DIDN'T NOBUNAGA DIE BEFORE HE BECAME PEERLESS?
IF SO, IT'S BETTER TO QU-
DON'T SAY THAT NOW!

IT WAS A MILITARY COMMANDER, WHO NEVER LOST SIGHT OF HIS IDEALS AND BELIEFS, THAT SAID THAT ADMITTING DEFEAT BEFORE EVEN FIGHTING
IS THE SAME AS DYING
HOLD ON TO YOUR IDEALS AND LIVE WITH YOUR BELIEFS!!
東京

UGUMORI HIGH SCHOOL'S COACH
YOSHIMOTO ZENJIROU

ODA NOBUNAGA

LET'S GO!
YEAH!!

ACE OF DIAMOND BRIGADE

RW: MASO-CHAN

TL: HISA-HISA

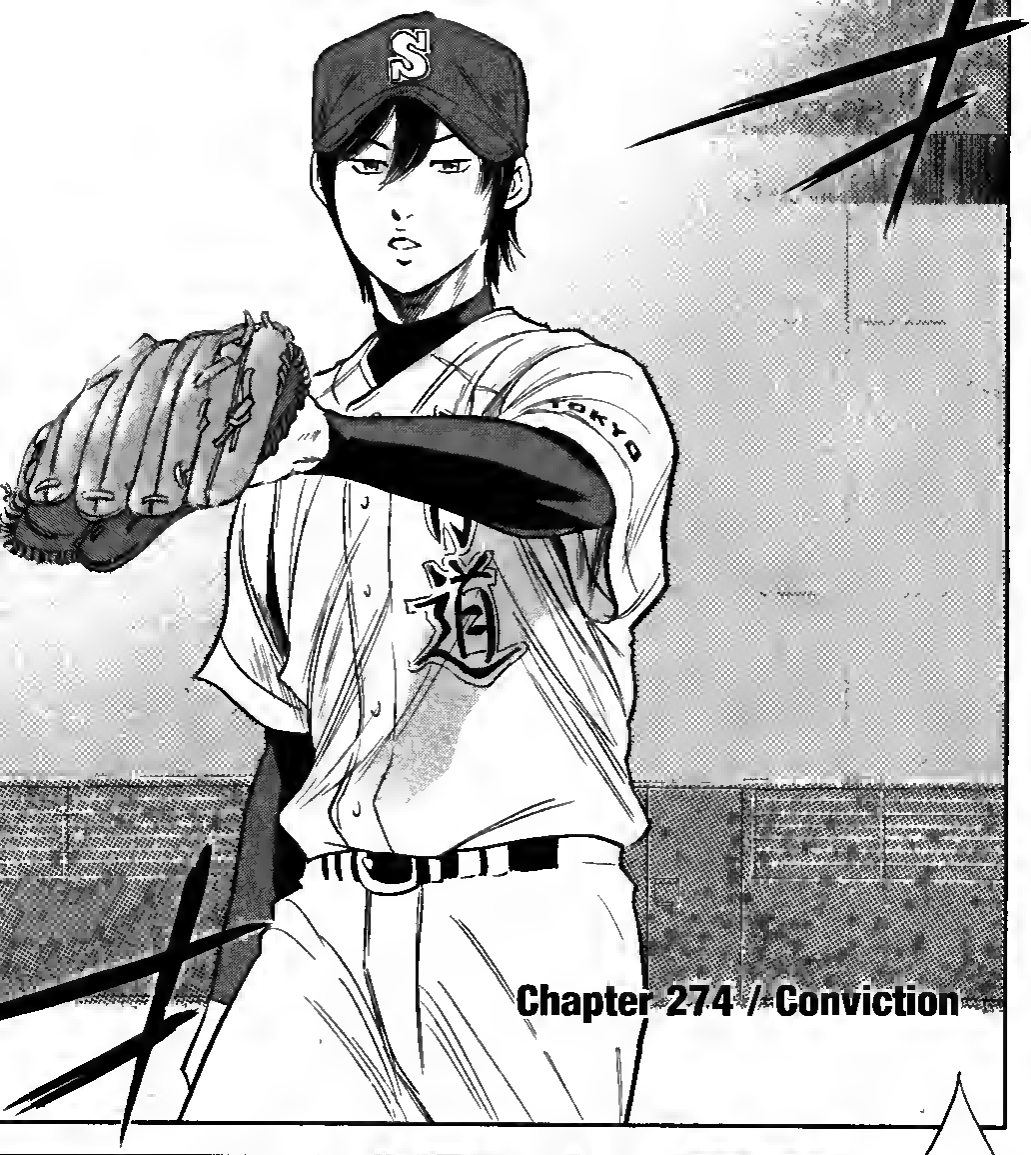
CL: KALLAMEZ

PR: CLOWNKING, KALLAMEZ

TS: KALLAMEZ

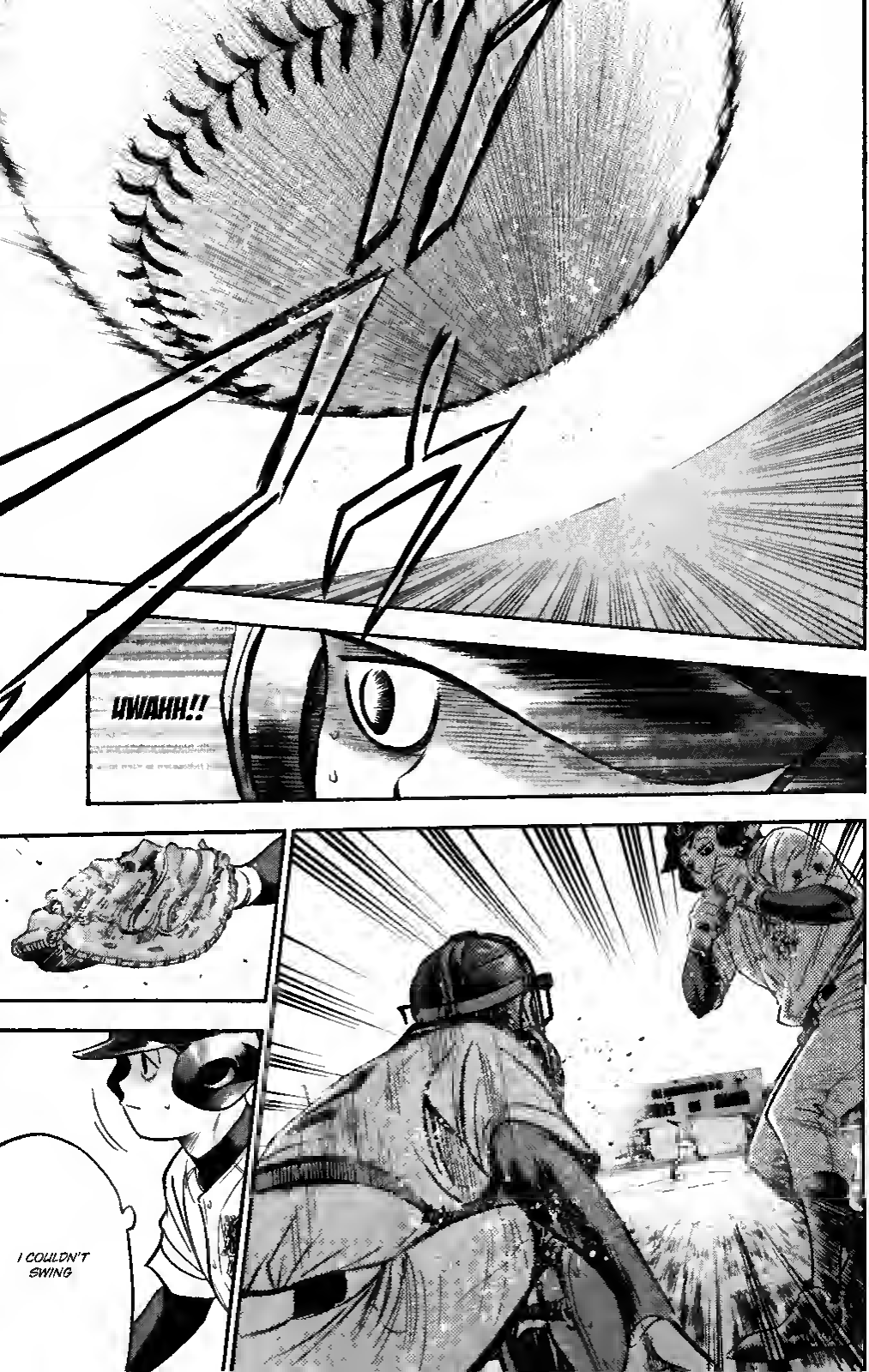
QC: KALAMEZ

お
HE SURE IS HANGING IN THERE, FIGHTING OFF SO MANY PITCHES.
THEY ARE NOT RUNNING AWAY FROM FURUYA'S PITCHES AT ALL.
IT'S A GREAT AT-BAT, I CAN SEE EVERYTHING.
WELL, THEY DREW THREE WALKS FROM INAJITSU, AFTER ALL.
IT WILL BE ANNOYING WHEN THEY GET ON BASE


Chapter 274 / Conviction

PRECISION OVER POWER! THROW A LOW ONE...
LET THEM HIT!
PITCH A GOOD ONE!

DON'T RUSH, DON'T PANIC ...
DON'T GET CARELESS.


UWAHH!!
I COULDN'T SWING

BALL FOUR!
YEAH!
GAICHAN, NICE PLAY!!
LUCKY!
WHA...
HE CONFIDENTLY LET THAT ONE GO.
YEAH... THE PITCHES THEY USUALLY LET GO THROUGH AREN'T THAT GOOD, BUT...
EVEN IF THEIR FASTBALL IS A NUISANCE, THEY STILL HAVE THE SPLITTER

IF IT IS HARD TO CORNER THEM, IT'S PROBABLY FOR THE BEST IF WE COULD MAKE THEM GIVE UP ON THAT LOW PITCH FROM THE START..
why
青
do it over!
huh?

ah... he's there
THAT WAS A HUGE LEAD.
FORGET ABOUT IT, BECAUSE IT'S ONLY GOING TO GET HARDER FROM NOW ON...
THERE ARE GOING TO BE A LOT OF SITUATIONS LIKE THIS FROM NOW ON, SO, WE HAVE NO CHOICE, BUT TO GET USED TO IT.

BALL
FOUR!

NO!
AH—
A CONSECUTIVE WALL!!
IT'S THAT KIND OF STARTING PITCHING AGAIN!
WE'VE SEEN THIS SCENE WAY TOO OFTEN.
GRRR...
THIS HAS ALREADY BECOME ONE OF HIS DEFINING CHARACTERISTICS.

AS EXPECTED!
IT'S THE SAME AS ALWAYS!
TOKYO
FOUL!

PRESS 'EM! PRESS 'EM!
I THINK THEY RE GOING TO RUN...
IT'S FINALLY STARTING...
HMM... A SACRIFICE BUNT...
THE PITCHER IS TREMBLING!
1
WHATEVER THE BATTERS OR RUNNERS DO...
DON'T MIND THE RUNNERS!
THERE IS ONLY ONE THING A PITCHER SHOULD DO...

SIMPLY GO AFTER THEM!

STRIKE!
BATTER OUT!

NICE BALL!
THAT'S GOOD!
EVEN IF YOU CAN'T TAKE THEM OUT WITH POWER, THEY CAN'T HIT WHEN YOU THROW IT THERE!
2
ONE OUT!
GET THEM ONE AT A TIME!
IS THIS A FIRST YEAR?

BATTING 4TH,
PITCHER, UMEMIYA
THIS BATTER SWINGS FROM THE FIRST PITCH, MIYUKI...
THIS ISN'T A JOKE, YOU BASTARD!
.....

IF WE'VE YOU CORNERED, WE WILL THOROUGHLY FINISH IT OFF WITH A SPLITTER.
SORRY, BUT WE HAVE NO INTENTION TO BATTLE WITH YOU UPFRONT.
IT WOULD BE BEST TO LET YOU HIT IT WITH THE TIP OF THE BAT AND GET A DOUBLE-PLAY.
FURUYA!!
FOCUS ON THE BATTER!!
WE CAN'T HAND IT OVER...
THE INITIATIVE!

IT'S SUDDENLY THE TURNING POINT.
THAT BATTER GIVES OFF AN AIR THAT ANYTHING COULD HAPPEN.
YOU HAVE TO SHUT THEM OUT HERE!
THIS IS IT!
TAKE THEM OUT!!
PICK UP THEIR REMAINS!
MEMORIZED EXERCISES
LET'S GO!
UME-CHAN!
TOP OF THE FIRST INNING, ONE OUT, RUNNERS AT FIRST AND SECOND...
AT BAT, IS UMEMIYA, WHO CLUTCH HITTED THE TWO WINNING RBI OFF OF INAJITSU'S ACE IN THE PREVIOUS GAME!

DON'T RUN AWAY
A SPARKLING CONVICTION UNDER HIS CAP!
HIS AIM IS TO SURPASS THEIR SUPERIORS ONCE MORE!
To be continued on Volume 32

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EDITOR
KIICHIRO SUGAWARA
TETSUYA FUJIKAWA

取材に行く理由、そして気づいた事

取材先の高校では、監督さんに直接お話を伺うことが多いのですが、
漫画のネタを戴きに行くというよりは、
数多くの選手を束ねるその指導力、発言力、
シビアなトーナメントを勝ち抜く為の創意工夫。
その高校のカラーを創り上げた監督さんのお話がおもしろくて、もの凄い刺激になる。
その刺激が自分の作品にいい影響を与えてくれるから
取材に行きたくなるんだな‥‥
ま‥‥普段はほとんど部屋にこもってるから、
外に出る口実でもあるんだろうけど(笑)。

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SO, HE SUCKS, RIGHT?
FFFT!
HE SURE DOES.